

June
Issue

City of Kingston Youth Employment Forum

100 JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN 22 DAYS

Youth Connect in partnership with the City of Kingston and the Bayside Glen Eira Kingston Local Learning Employment Network (BGK LLEN) with funding from the Australian Government Local Employment Coordinator's Flexible Funding Pool monies have teamed up to implement and facilitate major job campaign '100 Job Opportunities for Youth in 22 Days', which represents the 22 suburbs in the City of Kingston.

Research shows there is a vast range of local employment and training opportunities available to young people in the City of Kingston. To kick off the campaign there will be a Youth Employment Forum held in September. This event will look at how your business can attract and retain young people through increasing employment and training opportunities for young people. Looking at skill shortages and an ageing workforce, it will highlight the importance of working collaboratively to address youth employment issues and establish a network of employment service providers.

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 has successfully engaged with business and industry representatives through hosting business breakfast forums targeting key decision makers, which include CEOs, General Managers and Human Resource Managers who are responsible for addressing workforce development issues. "We believe that this is the most effective way to engage with local business and industry and provide them with all the information they need which will support them to look at engaging local youth into local jobs", said Daniela Ascone, General Manager of Youth Connect.

The outcomes intended include enhancement of job opportunities for young people in the City of Kingston area and surrounds; a community approach to enhancing business and industry engagement in the Kingston area; a collaborative approach to identify the employer and industry needs consultation and engagement; overall an awareness of the importance of engaging young people in industry and awareness to parents, young people, education providers and employers about the services and programs available in Kingston to support young people in securing employment.

Youth Connect invites business key decision makers to register their interest in attending the breakfast event. Which will be held on Tuesday 4 September 2012 at the Hemisphere Conference Centre & Hotel from 7.00AM. There will be a complimentary breakfast, networking opportunities, panel & table discussions.

"We inspire, motivate and empower young people and corporates to take action in order to unlock their full potential and achieve their goals." says Keynote Speaker Steve Moneghetti Co-Director of Glo Australia.



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YC4ME Celebrates its 1000th User!



Workplace Learning Coordinators
Bayside | Glen Eira | Kingston



The Youth Connect Work Placement Webportal YC4Me has nearly 1000 users and to celebrate, we would like to reward our 1000th user with a \$40 JB Hi Fi Voucher. All you have to do is sign up for the free YC4Me Webportal for the chance to win, and search for your Work Placement online! YC4Me has opportunities for students' Work Experience, VET Placement (SWL), VCAL Work placement and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. Sign up for the webportal and browse the opportunities online.

If you have a business and wish to support local young people through their work placement, contact the Workplace Learning Coordinators at Youth Connect at wlc@youthconnect.com.au or phone 8306 6300



Food for Thought:
When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.
—Franklin D. Roosevelt



APPLIED LEARNING AWARDS 2012

BAYSIDE GLEN EIRA & KINGSTON REGION

Do you know of a young person, teacher / trainer, school or business achieving excellence in applied learning?

Would you like to see them rewarded for this success?

The 2012 Applied Learning Awards recognise the outstanding efforts of **secondary students** undertaking applied learning programs, **secondary schools** and **teachers** offering and supporting applied learning programs and **businesses** that provide students with workplace experiences.

Nominations open 18 June 2012 and close 24 August 2012

How are winners selected? The award winners will be selected by a judging panel comprised of representatives from peak industry bodies, education departments and local government.

New student award in 2012!

In 2012 the Highbett Community Bank is sponsoring a new student award – ‘Applied Learning Student of the Year’.

A \$1500 scholarship will be provided to the student who is an outstanding applied learner and who also demonstrates outstanding community participation and leadership.

If you would like to nominate a teacher, student, school or business for an Applied Learning Award, please contact Fiona at the BGKLEN on 9584 8845 or email fiona.waugh@bgkllen.org.au to obtain a Nomination Form. Complete your nomination form and return it as directed. For more information please go to <http://www.youthconnect.com.au/get-involved/2012appliedlearningawards/>

Sponsorship Opportunity

The 2012 Applied Learning Awards will be held on Tuesday, 16 October at the International of Brighton.

The Awards present an excellent and integral link to supporting and working towards achieving our Vision – A community where school to work pathways and career choices for all young people are equally valued and respected. The Awards achieve this by rewarding and celebrating the achievements and success of students, schools and employers engaged in and with Applied Learning.

Youth Connect is currently seeking sponsorship for the event. Sponsorship is a great way of promoting your organisation and supporting the development of applied learning for young people in the local community. Please call Christine on 8306 6300 to obtain a sponsorship information pack or email Christine at alawards@youthconnect.com.au

Freedom from Fear Film Festival



In celebration of Refugee Week, the City of Yarra and the Yarra Settlement Forum invited all secondary school students in the area to submit a short film for the ‘Freedom from Fear’ Student Film Screening and Award Presentation.

Secondary school students from the City of Yarra have been making films in response to the

theme ‘Freedom from Fear’. The making of these films has helped them to learn about and explore the experience of being a refugee. The ‘Freedom from Fear’ Film Festival was held at the Fitzroy Town Hall on Wednesday, 20 June with a large crowd of excited students, teachers, youth workers and community members. Such a fantastic atmosphere was enjoyed by all whilst viewing all of the amazing talent... and even popcorn was provided!

It was Collingwood Alternative School students who won first prize and \$1000 towards their school. Their film featured a hip-hop song written, directed and edited by the students, who included three participants from the Youth Connections program. On behalf of the Youth Connections team, we congratulate all those who entered and the great achievements of these budding young filmmakers.

For more information on the Youth Connections Program, contact the Youth Services Team Leader, Megan at m.dow@youthconnect.com.au

Indoor Rock Climbing Afternoon

Are you struggling at school at the moment?
Want to meet new people and make new friends?
Need someone to talk to? Need some chill out time?
If you are aged 13–19 living in the Cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington and Yarra come along!

This is a FREE Event. Numbers are limited so get in quick!

WHERE: Hard Rock Climbing Gym –
Cnr Franklin & Swanston Streets, Melbourne

WHEN: Tuesday, 21 August 2012

TIME: 2:00PM – 5:00PM.

To register or for more information contact:

Port Phillip – Keegan: 0424 496 857/ k.bone@youthconnect.com.au

Stonnington – Josh: 0409 501 496/ j.kerr@youthconnect.com.au

Yarra – Shannon: 0409 501 863/ s.barratt@youthconnect.com.au



Join Youth Connect on social media networks— **Twitter** and **Facebook**.

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

Facilitator Training

Parents As Career Transition Support



Pacts Facilitator Training was held at the Youth Connect office over two days in June. Youth Connect offered ten fully funded places to school personnel and community workers within the South Eastern suburbs. This funding was arranged by the Rotary Club of Bentleigh Moorabbin Central. Congratulations to all the newly trained facilitators on the right.



A clear example of how the Youth Connect team works so well together culminating in a placement and a new Work This Way Employer

Kate was undertaking a Certificate III Administration course at Holmesglen TAFE two days a week. Kate was seeking part-time or fulltime work and interested in Administration traineeships or part-time office

positions which would allow her to continue with her course. Kate felt like she needed to gain more confidence and this is one of the reasons she linked in with WTW.

A traineeship opportunity became available however Kate was advised needing a licence and car was non-negotiable for the position. The Work This Way Program Coordinator, Michele, was informed of another opportunity which came up regarding applicants for a part-time Administration Assistant position in Moorabbin, immediately the employer requested that Kate's resume be emailed, however they were not conducting interviews until July. Simultaneously the Workplace Learning Coordinator Program Coordinator, Merrie, informed Michele of another opportunity with a Mentone Employer looking to employ an Administration Assistant – possibly a trainee.

The Mentone Employer contacted Michele to inform her she had contacted Kate and arranged an interview for the next day. The next part involved working with Kate to provide her with information and Interview preparation material. Kate was successful at the interview and after being offered the role, she was asked to start the next day!

In less than seven weeks from the first contact, this young person achieved securing a job and career path including the prospect of gaining a recognised qualification. Most importantly, this was a collaborative effort involving several players and how Youth Connect's programs can work collaboratively resulting in positive outcomes for young people.



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 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. Currently held Fridays fortnightly 10am–1pm at the Youth Connect Office, Level 3/1001 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin. The next dates are 20 July, 3, 17 and 31 August. For more information or to register, please contact Michele Sargent at m.sargent@youthconnect.com.au

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: Wednesday 1 August 2012

Also Thursday, 6 September 2012

Where: Youth Connect Office

Level 3, 1001 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Mary – m.licciardo@youthconnect.com.au

When: Thursday, 9 August 2012

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

Time: 09.00am – 11.00am

Michelle – m.peterson@youthconnect.com.au

Disability Community PACTS

(For parents with children with a learning disability who want to learn more about the secondary school system)

When: Thursday, 23 and 30 August 2012 (Please attend both sessions)

Where: Youth Connect Office

Level 3, 1001 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Mary – m.licciardo@youthconnect.com.au

Secondary School Conversations

(For parents with children in primary school who want to learn more about the secondary school system)

When: Thursday, 20 September 2012

Where: Youth Connect Office

Level 3, 1001 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin

Time: 10.00am–12.00pm

Mary – m.licciardo@youthconnect.com.au

Light refreshments provided. Bookings are essential.



25 & 26 June 2012 at the Melbourne Park Function Centre
 A two day collaborative conference that brings together government, local government, schools, and the community sector.

The conference is a response to children and young people experiencing barriers to accessing opportunities to learning and development. It is designed for those working in education, youth support, health, housing, justice services, and police.

Highlights of the event included, keynote addresses from Mr Charles Leadbeater from the United Kingdom, a leading authority on innovation, strategy and education. Professor Mark Rose, Chair of Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Deakin University, Ms Gill Callister, Secretary Victorian Department of Human Services, Mr Bill Scales AO, Chancellor Swinburne University of Technology and Professor Rob White, Professor of Criminology University of Tasmania. Also Concurrent workshops and presentations showcasing best practice and research in future thinking for responses to vulnerable young people, early intervention strategies, partnerships and integrated service responses and transition.

Youth Connect had an expo stall set up and Chief Executive Officer, Danny Schwarz presented *Right Step – youth justice diversion equals young people contributing to the community* by addressing the issues that underlie criminal behaviour, such as drug and alcohol problems, homelessness, lack of positive adult role models, connectedness with family, school and the wider community, young offenders diversion programs can support the achievement of a cohesive community head on. Danny was also part of panel discussion *Education Engagement Partnership: across the Cities of Port Phillip and Stonnington*.

Career & Transitions Update



iPrep Mock interviews in action at Brighton Secondary College

iPrep – Mock Interviews

Term 2 saw 295 students from Year 9 and Year 10 have a 15 minute “mock interview”. They presented with a resume and/or cover letter and acted as they would in a real interview process. This involved two schools in the Bayside Glen Eira Kingston region, each school having two sessions. 28 Interviewers were involved in this process, with 22 of them as part of our volunteer bank of ‘industry interviewers.’ The students received lots of feedback for their interviewing skills and were very thankful.

INDUSTRY TOURS

40 students were involved in practical industry contact, either at a site visit or in a conversation with an employer. Some of these were as a group or one to one. Areas ranged from Fitness/Sport Instructor, Games Animator, Chiropractor, Dentist, Essential Services – Firefighter, Police Officer and Paramedic. The range is only limited by the students investigations. “Young people need to know the essentials of a job/ career, I loved the question ‘what do you hate about the job, and what do you love? Makes you think about yourself’” said the Chiropractor.

CAREER COUNSELLING

15 new clients have either had a one hour session concerning career pathways or the first of a number of sessions regarding career transition options. These have been referred either from other agencies, such as Headspace, Youth Express or from our other programs. Ongoing support is offered by way of an email or phone conversation.

Contact Michelle m.peterson@youthconnect.com.au or 8306 6300.

STAFF PROFILE—

MELISSA RODWELL



What is your position at Youth Connect? Project Officer

Complete this sentence: When I grow up I want to be a... A veterinarian or a lawyer ... There's still time!

What is your star sign? Pisces

Favourite pastime? Spending time with my three kids

What CD is currently playing in your car?

R Kelly—Greatest Hits

What annoys you? Household bills. Why can't we live for free?!

Favourite destination and where to next? Africa... I have been to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi and Kenya... I want to go back to see the gorillas.

Something we don't know about you:

I am in a Guy Pearce movie, called 'Jack Irish', which is coming out in November.

Favourite thing about your role? Working with young people to get them into work, where I can use my 15 years experience in employment services and education. It is really rewarding

Best attribute? Funny

Contact Melissa on 8306 6300 or m.rodwell@youthconnect.com.au

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