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**Extra, Extra, Read All About It...**

Welcome to Term Two. We hope your holidays were relaxing and joyful.

In this issue of uConnect, we congratulate Youth Connect's Chief Executive Officer Danny Schwarz for featuring in The Age Newspaper on March 21, 2011 in the article "[Taking A Vocation](#)" and introducing Youth Connect to the broader community. In addition, March saw other Youth Connect related articles presented in the local Leader Newspaper. This has provided great exposure for the organisation in providing young people with pathways and that services Youth Connect have to offer are not only widely available; but also have successful outcomes.

In April three staff members attended the Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) International Career Conference in Cairns to present and introduce PACTS. It was overall a success and Youth Connect gained lots of interests in terms of services offered, events and the organisation as a whole.

Coming up in May, sees the introduction of a Senior School Pathways Expo in Hawthorn. This event is aimed at all parents who are interested in learning more about pathways for their teens.

More information can be found throughout the newsletter on all these initiatives.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with you in the coming months.



**[WHO]** Danny Schwarz, champion of vocational education and training  
**[WHAT]** Young people are being blocked from career options  
**[HOW]** Broaden the offering at secondary schools—and get the discussion going

To read the full story please visit:  
<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/taking-a-vocation-20110320-1c24u.html>

**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.*

**Important dates to remember...**

**Meetings for 2011**

**Applied Learning Network – Training Providers & Industry RTOs, TAFEs, AACs, GTOs, Industry & Employer representatives**

<b>Term 2 – 24 May</b>	<b>7.30am to 8.45am</b>
Term 3 – 16 August	7.30am to 8.45am
Term 4 – 8 November	7.30am to 8.45am

**Applied Learning Network – Schools All Sectors) VET, VCAL, Careers Coordinators**

<b>Term 2 – 2 June</b>	<b>4.00pm to 5.30pm</b>
Term 3 – 23 August	4.00pm to 5.30pm
Term 4 – 15 November	4.00pm to 5.30pm

Term 2 Meetings will be held at Hemisphere Conference Centre, 488 South Rd, Moorabbin. Venue for other meetings is TBC.

For more information contact Christine on 9557 6233 or email [events@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:events@youthconnect.com.au)

**Senior School Pathways Expo**

Thursday May 12 2011  
 7.00pm to 9.00pm  
 Main Hall, The Augustine Centre,  
 Habitat Uniting Church  
 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn 3122

**Applied Learning Network Expo**

Friday 1 July 2011  
 9.30am to 12.00pm – Venue TBC

**Secure your spot for the next TACTS session**

Monday 23 May 2011  
 1.00pm to 4.00pm  
 Youth Connect, Ground Floor,  
 261 Centre Road, Bentleigh 3204

**Community PACTS**

Date TBC late May—early June



**Food for Thought:**

*All our dreams can come true...  
 If we have the courage to pursue them.  
 —Walt Disney*

## Coming up... *Senior School Pathways Forum 2011*

VCAL ?  
VCE ?  
VET ?  
SBAT ?

How do they work ?

What are they ?

Where do they lead ?

Where are they  
studied ?

**Heard of VCAL, VET and SBAT, but not sure what they are?**

**Come along to the free Senior School Pathways Forum and find out about the range of education pathways now available to young people in their senior years of education.**

Come along to the free Senior School Pathways Forum and find out about the range of education pathways now available to young people in their senior years of education.

*The FORUM will include:*

Information about the Senior School Certificates (VCE, VCAL), Vocational Education and Training (VET) and School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT).

Howard Kelly, an educational expert, will make a keynote speech, providing insight into education and young people making choices for their future.

Kelly has considerable experience as a school leader, state-wide curriculum reformer and leader of key strategic projects at State level relating to multi media policy, devolution of autonomy to schools and reform at the post compulsory level.

The MC for the night is Lawrence Mooney, a stand-up comedian who is a regular guest on *The Einstein Factor* as well as Jon Faine's Conversation Hour on 774 and soon to appear on Channel 7's *Winners and Losers*.



**When: Thursday May 12, 2011**

**Time: 7.00pm–9.00pm**

**Where: Main Hall  
The Augustine Centre,  
Habitat Uniting Church  
2 Minona Street,  
Hawthorn VIC  
(Melway Ref. 45 E11)**

**Registration:**  
[events@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:events@youthconnect.com.au)  
or 9557 6233

**RSVP: Tuesday May 3, 2011**

## **CDA** CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

### 2011 CDA Internation al Career Conference in Cairns

Youth Connect are excited to have presented at the 2011 CDA International Conference in Cairns. This is the 20th annual conference for the Career Development Association of Australia (CDA). Daniela, Mary and Michelle (left) from Youth Connect facilitated an informative and interactive workshop titled, "A VET Professionals Simple Guide to Incorporating Employability and Industry Skills Training into the Curriculum". Further to this, Youth Connect showcased our PACTS and TACTS programs during a mid-conference exhibition which also attracted much interest from delegates.

The conference focus is on taking stock of where career development is at the moment and explores where it should go in the future. The CDA Conference has attracted a range of participants including practitioners, policy makers, employers and researchers. Over 70 papers from participants from over 18 countries were integrated into the program and 400+ delegates were in attendance. This was a great opportunity for Youth Connect to showcase how we work with our stakeholders to incorporate meaningful school to industry programs for young people and to enhance our profile to other organisations within Australia and overseas.



### "Bridging the Gap: An Employer's Workshop on Engaging with the New Generations at Work"



On Monday March 7 2011, Youth Connect was invited to present at the 2011 National Plumbing Regulators Forum. This was a fantastic opportunity for Youth Connect to gauge the effectiveness and relevance of the program. We received excellent feedback. We will now look at similar opportunities to present at industry forums where we hope that we will be engaged to deliver the program on a fee for service basis.



## YC4me Web Portal Is Now Live!

With the new YC4me Web Portal up and running, young people in the Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston area will have access to work placements sourced by our Workplace Learning Coordinators. The portal has been designed with young people, education providers and host employers to make the process of securing work placements simpler, faster, more vibrant, engaging and useful.

© Youth Connect 4me

Youth Connect is currently working on a number of great new features which will be added to our website. YC4me and the Youth Connect website will provide up to date resources for young people, education providers and employers about work placements.

In term 2, our Workplace Learning Coordinators will be contacting schools to arrange a time to meet with VET/VCAL and Careers Coordinators to walk through the portal and how the system will benefit you and your students. At this appointment, schools will be allocated usernames and passwords which will allow schools to track the progress of their students' placements.

Your feedback about YC4me is welcome. I certainly hope YC4me meet the needs of young people, education providers and host employers and achieve our aim of providing a better way for young people to access quality work placement opportunities. For more information, please contact Youth Connect on 9557 6233 or [wlc@youthconnect.com.au](mailto:wlc@youthconnect.com.au)

Daniela Ascone: General Manager—Program Development and Operations



### Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston Forum and Expo 2011

The Expo and Forum was held on Tuesday February 22 2011. It was a joint initiative between the Bayside Glen Eira and Kingston Local Learning Network (BGKLEN), Youth Connect and Youth Xpress. In association with the Department of Education Southern Metropolitan Region, Bayside City Council, Glen Eira City Council, City of Kingston and Family Life.

The event was designed to inform teacher personnel at all schools to provide an overview of the support and services available in the region. It was an informative and interactive event where guests had the chance to network, participate in workshops, learn about support services, enhance their knowledge of referral agencies and bring back a plethora of information to their schools and students.

Many thanks to Paul Bird from Mission Australia who was a key note speaker on the day; the twenty eight local organisations who exhibited and over 100 guests who came along to listen and participate. It was an overall success with lots of positive feedback.

(Left above local government agencies, Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston displays, left below group shot).



### Work this Way Update

Harry signed up to the Work This Way program in early January 2011. He was able to explore his passion for carpentry and via a great employer relationship, Rebecca, Youth Connect's Youth Employment Case Manager (right) introduced him to the FarmForce Project run by the Taskforce Construction Project at Collingwood Children's Farm. Harry completed a 13 week Certificate II in Construction and gained a Construction Industry White Card and Senior First Aid Certificate – Level 2.



His experience at the Farm as a Builder's Labourer included: building sheds, extensions to stables and toilet, fence construction, roofing, cement laying, timber cutting, also assisting with plumbing and carpentry duties. He also helped with general land care (e.g. lawn mowing, weeding, fencing and paving).

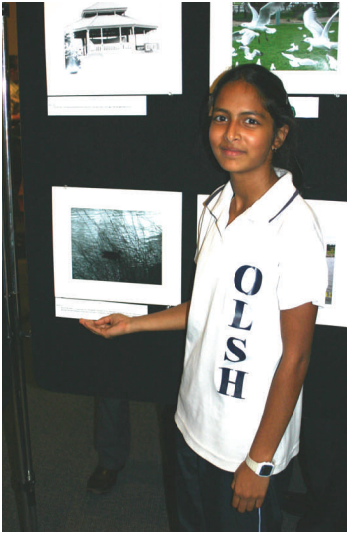
Upon attaining the Certificate II each worker is acknowledged by holding an afternoon tea and has an exit interview which reinforces what they have learnt and enjoyed the most about working on the FarmForce Project.



(Harry top right with Dennis and Rebecca and below the crew at the Collingwood Children's Farm)

# How I SEE IT

## YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



### How I See It—Youth Photography Competition 2011

The How I See It – Youth Photography competition was open to anyone aged between 12 to 25, who live, learn or play in the City of Kingston area. Over 30 participants entered photos taken of buildings, beaches, parks, entertainment, flora and other creative works of art. This was a great opportunity for the youth of Kingston to show their talent and how they 'see' the City of Kingston. Hopefully we can have the same outcome next year.

The exhibition night was a success with 56 photos displayed and over 50 attendees. Cr Steve Staikos and Cr Paul Peulich attended the event and presented the awards to the winners. Pictured is first prize winner Dariyn.

Congratulations to Dariyn (12), Ben (19) and Tristan (15) who won first, second and third prize and shared \$600 in Westfield vouchers. A City of Kingston 2012 calendar is being developed displaying the winners' work and top ten photos.

### Youth Connect's Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on Tuesday March 29 2011. The Board election saw Jan Lambert elected as Secretary and Jeni Ritterman and John Dance reelected. The position of Deputy Chairperson was left vacant with a view to fill the position during the year.

The AGM is a time to thank staff and volunteers for their dedication and commitment. In doing this Danny highlighted the incredible number of people and organisations who have participated in or have been supported by the services and programs run by Youth Connect. During 2010 just over 2,800 people had direct contact through our programs and services. This included 766 young people who participated in Industry tours, 191 parents in our PACTS program and 420 young people who with the support of our volunteers participated in our iPrep program.

## CAREER CONNECT

Do you need help finding a job?

Aged between 16 to 24 years?

Do you live in the Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston areas?

If you answer YES, we can help you find a job including apprenticeships and traineeships.

**Career Connect is run every week in various locations. To book your place please phone 9557 6233.**

**Date:** Monday fortnightly  
**Time:** 10.00am to 1.00pm  
**Venue:** Long Beach Place  
 15 Chelsea Rd, Chelsea  
**Mel Ref:** 97 B1



**Date:** Wednesday fortnightly  
**Time:** 10.00am to 1.00pm  
**Venue:** Youth Connect  
 261 Centre Rd, Bentleigh  
**Mel Ref:** 68 C12

**Date:** Thursday fortnightly  
**Time:** 09.30am to 12.00pm  
**Venue:** Sandy Beach Centre  
 Cnr Beach Rd and Sim St, Sandringham  
**Mel Ref:** 76 G10



### Sponsorship Opportunity

**Save the Date: The 2011 Applied Learning Awards will be held on Tuesday October 18 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 9557 6233 to obtain a sponsorship information pack.

### Youth Connect

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