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Newsletter

Macarthur YOUTH COMMITMENT Inc.

MYC Annual Awards

The inaugural Macarthur Youth Commitment Annual Awards were held on April 27th 20005, at the Macarthur Restaurant at Campbelltown TAFE.

The awards were established to acknowledge the excellent efforts made by staff, community workers, members from Government, non-government organisations, youth services or individuals who have demonstrated a significant contribution to young people in the area of education, training and employment in the region. Nominations were received in 2004.
More than 70 people attended including 3 MPs, representatives from 3 local councils including a mayor and general manager, DET, Catholic Education Office, TAFE, FACS, local youth and community services, employers and Centrelink. Mr Pat Farmer MP presented the awards and certificates. Young people provided entertainment via Macarthur Anglican School string ensemble, and TAFE students provided hospitality service.

The event was a very positive celebration of the work done with young people in the region, and MYC received strong affirmation at this event.

Finalists were Tania Ward (Daystar Foundation), Christine Ridge (Sarah Redfern HS), Jan Chisholm (Plan-It Youth), Petty O'Loughlin (Catholic Education Office), Noleen Jessup (Camden Council), Sara Hornsby (Macarthur Group Companies), Kevin Spiteri (Broens Industries), Valerie Dally (Wollondilly Youth Services Network) and Michelle Williams (Wollondilly Youth Services Network).

The winner, Jan Chisholm from Plan-It Youth, a community volunteer mentoring program in eight DET SWS Region schools. Plan-It Youth assists students in years 9 & 10 look at career choices and life options beyond school. Students are often supported to stay at school or helped into positive training or employment options. Jan's personal involvement and passion in the implementation of the program has seen the program expand from 1 school in 2002 to 8 in 2004. Over 140 mentors have assisted over 170 young people in Macarthur.

Pat Farmer & Jan Chisholm

The highly commended, Kevin Spiteri from Broens Industries, is an active member of the MARS Steering Committee.

Pat Farmer & Kevin Spiteri

MARS (Macarthur Apprentice Recruitment Strategy) is a partnership between Macarthur Group Companies, SWSI of TAFE and the Australian Industry Group and employers.
MARS is a marketing vehicle aimed to assist young people's access to careers in manufacturing and engineering in the region. The MARS project provides a single access point for all employment opportunities in the industry. Kevin has been very active in representing young people's interests on the steering committee, organising very successful industry visits, addressing students in high schools and careers markets and addressing parents and students queries at hypothetical nights.
Kevin has supported the 20 MARS trainees and facilitated an additional group of trainees at Broen's Industries.
The 2005 MYC Annual Awards are open for nominations. Nominations will be sent to MYC members soon.

MYC Activities

Mr Graham West MP for Campbelltown, opened the first Macarthur Youth Summit that was held on July 27 at the Campbelltown RSL Club. Jessica Kiely from Youth to Youth was the MC.

Discussing school to work transition issues the *Learning to Earning - Macarthur Youth Summit* brought young people, community members, youth service providers, government and non-government representatives and industry together to share and further their knowledge of the Macarthur region. Total Summit participants numbered 135 with 57 (42%) young people in attendance.

It provided an avenue for local young people and community members to identify and state their concerns in relation to regional youth issues.

"MYC has a strong commitment to ensuring that young people have a voice in identifying the issues that impact on them."
Denise McGrath, President of Macarthur Youth Commitment

Learning to Earning - Macarthur Youth Summit had 3 themes:

- Employment and Industry issues
- Socio-Cultural issues
- Education and Training issues.

The Summit included 3 Sector forums:

- **Forum 1: Young People:** Local young people drawn from high schools, unemployed, part-time workers, associated youth clubs and services, TAFE, UWS, etc.
- **Forum 2: Community and Non-Government Services:** Local community and non-government organisations inclusive of job network, schools, social, youth welfare, cultural, and religious.
- **Forum 3: Government Services and Authorities:** All government services represented in the area from the federal, state and local levels.

MYS Secretariat

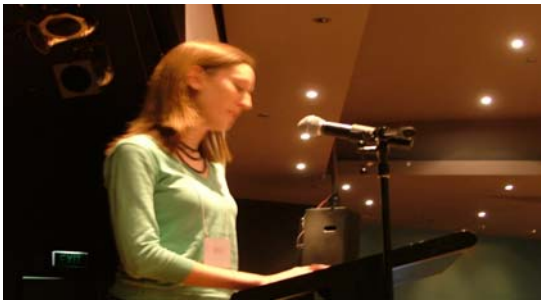
Young people at the Summit were excited about being able to participate in one of the very few opportunities to have a say about issues affecting them and possible ways forward across the region. Their presentation of issues was creative and energetic to say the least.

An Issues and Planning Resource will be produced and circulated across local, state and federal government agencies, local service providers, schools and training providers and interested parties to assist in the development of a coordinated approach to school to work issues for young people in Macarthur.

Some of the most common issues identified by participants:

- Lack of flexibility of the education and training system to cater for students from variety of socio-economic circumstances
- Traineeships and apprenticeships wages are too low to attract many young people
- Lack of information about employment options in Macarthur
- Lack of support for young people from various cultural backgrounds
- The linking of industry needs to education and training
- More regional support required assisting young people in obtaining employment
- Workplace training needs to be of better quality and relevance
- Lack of information about changes in the education, training and employment sectors being passed onto parents/families

Macarthur Youth Summit photo gallery



Jessica Kiely

Graham West & Denise McGrath

Danny Trevisiol & Christine Beasley

Young people's sector forum

Workshop sessions

Workshop sessions

Workshop sessions

Workshop sessions

Want to receive a copy of the MYS findings and final report?
Then please call us on 4620 1927 or email rose.leto-rerecic@tafensw.edu.au

What's happening in 2005?

Macarthur's Young People Achieve above expectations

Macarthur Youth Commitment (MYC) have recently released data on Macarthur's young people who have been classified 'at risk' of not completing high school. The MYC Transition Brokers Program, in partnership with Centrelink and in conjunction with key school staff (Careers Advisors, Welfare, Principals) has assisted over 800 young people across 14 high schools to achieve better educational, training and employment outcomes.

The success of the program means that the Macarthur region benefits socially and economically as these young people move from school and training into the workforce and develop into active members of the community.

The MYC Transition Brokers Program has been operating in Macarthur schools since term 4 2003 with 10 schools initially growing to 14 schools as of mid 2005. The students who have been referred to the program since term 4 2003 have achieved some remarkable successes.

Of the more than 800 young people referred to the program:

- 266 young people have continued on at school with almost 100 students taking a part time job
- 110 clients have taken up apprenticeships/ traineeships.
- 145 clients have gained some form of employment (F/T 89 clients and P/T 56 clients)
- 144 young people have accessed TAFE programs
- 38 clients were unemployed

Macarthur's young people are achieving outcomes, which for many would not have been possible without the support of Macarthur Youth Commitment, the extra support from their schools and the strategic role and hard work by Transition Brokers in Centrelink.

The Australian Government's Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Department of Education Science and Training funds Macarthur Youth Commitment.

MYC can provide human stories to exemplify the successes of the young people and TB Program.

"Lasting change happens one on one, one by one, and then in partnership."
~ Norman Drummond ~

Highlights from Transition Brokers

A special acknowledgement goes out to **Alistair Shipsey** from **Campbelltown Motorcycles** for working with the Transition Brokers (Fernando Giumentaro and Renee White) in accepting young people for work experience and offering employment to others referred by a transition broker.

As Fernando stated, "*Alistair is willing to give young people a go. He is always willing to try and help young people with problems and is willing to take on people in non-traditional roles. For example Alistair took on one young girl to undertake mechanic duties.*"

So a big thanks to Alistair and Campbelltown Motorcycles.

A special report from Transition Brokers highlighted the visit to Campbelltown by **All Trades Group (group training company)**. A number of the TB clients were organised to meet with the representatives from ATG and undertake some employment pre-selection tests.

Reports are that the young people went extremely well in the test and impressed the ATG representatives so much with their courtesy, manners and ability that the ATG representatives will be visiting again in the near future.

Mission Australia has made an offer to young people, who are clients of MYC Transition Brokers program, to come and visit Mission Australia's office to see the services that they provide. Didier Vellin, TB for Campbelltown, stated, "*This would be a great opportunity for young people who are about to leave school to see the services they can access. I have organised some students to attend early next term*". Thanks to Mission Australia for their offer and support.

Congratulations from MYC and Transition Brokers to four former students who will be graduating from Mission Australia's Links to Learning program on 28 September 2005. A big thanks to Mission Australia's Craig Murray and the team from Links to Learning.

What's happening in 2005?

MYC Coordinator comments

There has been a lot happening this year with major events like the *Learning to Earning* Macarthur Youth Summit, which has led on to being invited to present about it at the DEWR *Better Connections* workshop on Aug 23 and the NAPCAN Foundation's *Towards a Child Friendly Macarthur* forum Sept. 9.

DEST have also implemented a new structure [Australian Network of Industry Careers Advisers (ANICA)] to support school to work transitions nationally that we have been involved with. ANICA has several subcomponents covering different regional footprints and emphases.

- Local Community Partnerships (LCP) will be funded to facilitate Career and Transition Support, Adopt a School projects and Structured Work Placements.
- Youth Pathways (YP) is support for the most at risk young people (developing out of JPP).
- Regional Industry Careers Advisers (RICA) and National Industry Career Specialists (NICS) are additional sources of information to inform people about career opportunities.

MYC has applied for funding from DEST under the ANICA initiatives for Local Community Partnerships, and the Youth Pathways tender to enable us to provide continued transition support services after our Sustainable Regions funding finishes next year.

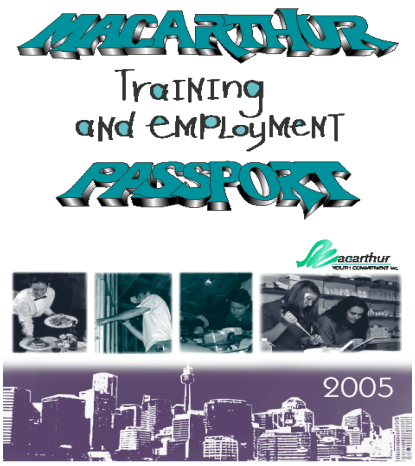
MYC was invited to a state DET workshop to identify strategies to add to the existing support available to the career and transition of young people in DET schools in response to the recent ANICA initiatives.

DEST wants models of good practice and examples from the experience of MYC and the other NYC regions to be passed on to the new and existing Local Community Partnerships to use in their operations, policies and procedures, and so are funding us to develop these resources in partnership with other Youth Commitments.

MYC has continued to seek to develop partnerships to progress various project ideas, and so have been working with Breakthrough Youth Employment mentoring, MGC, DEWR, GROW and indigenous services and networks. MYC is contributing to the development of the Campbelltown youth strategy, and has been part of the Campbelltown youth services and facilities review.

"the little we communicate quite simply to another person, particularly a young person, another person's child, may find a resonance in their soul which may last their whole life long"
Frère Roger of Taizé

Macarthur Training & Employment Passport



MYC have yet again produced another Training and Employment Passport. After consultation with many of last year's recipients MYC decided not to do a major rewrite but to update some of the information and contacts. With 7000 copies printed more than 4500 have already been distributed. The Passport is MYC's major resource and is distributed to schools, youth service providers and job network providers in the Macarthur region.

The 5th edition is available in hard copy and PDF format on CD Rom. The Training and Employment Passport is a useful tool to assist young people in their transition from school to work.

If you have yet to receive your copy or would like to order multiple copies of the passport, then please contact Rose on 4620 1927 or email rose.leto-rerecic@tafensw.edu.au

MYC Updates

MYC Consultative Network

This year MYC established the MYC Consultative Network (MYC CN) to add a wider perspective to MYC strategies and to inform strategic planning and actions about youth transition issues and to help build partnerships in Macarthur.

MYC CN meets bimonthly, and has been a very valuable network with a broad range of participants around the table. The Consultative Network has representatives from 2 councils, Premiers Dept, DOCS Office of Children and Young People, DET SWS Region, CEO, DEST, DEWR, DOTARS, FACS, Centrelink, GROW, Mission Australia, Uniting Care Burnside, representative of Careers Advisor in Macarthur Schools, Macarthur Group Companies, YWCA Job Futures, Wesley Employment, Macarthur Disability Services and Austool.

As well as informing MYC strategies, this Network provides opportunity to ensure that initiatives complement and don't compete with existing services.

Industry Skills Audit

MYC has been developing the concept of an audit of industrial areas to keep informed of job opportunities and skill shortages in the region.

Having discussed the project with a variety of people with mostly positive response, the audit has been endorsed in principal by Macarthur GROW committee.

MYC is currently in consultation with Canberra DEWR representatives to ensure that MYC's research plans and the outcomes from the Better Connections workshop are complimentary.

Youth Mentoring working group

The Macarthur youth mentoring network has had several very positive meetings this year to update interested people about the variety of mentoring and coaching models in the area.
Plan-it youth mentoring in 9 DET schools is continuing to develop under the leadership of Jan Chisholm and her team. Maximising Potential in Macarthur leadership coaching has about 150 coaches and young people and with exciting feedback from participants. Burnside has a mentoring program for their clients, which is moving forward well.
The Liverpool based Breakthrough Youth Employment mentoring program provides a service to young people post school which we don't have in Macarthur. MYC have been working with this program to investigate possibilities for funding for this program in Campbelltown/Macarthur region.

Leaving School What Next? Information Session for Parents

MYC responded to an approach from Macarthur Diversity Services (MDS) (ex Macarthur Migrant Resource Centre), the major agency working with CALD residents locally, to provide some information sessions for migrant parents to help inform them about post school options for their children.

Discussions with MDS resulted in a series of workshops in 2005 targeting the 3 major migrant groups in the region – the Pacific Islander, Arabic and Spanish speaking groups.

Using MYC networks a series of events utilising translators and representatives from several organisations presented to parents. These included presentations about post school education and training options from a careers adviser, Centrelink talking about their services and role of job networks, and Group Training organisations talking about apprenticeships and traineeships.

MYC provided a resource pack of information from DEWR, Centrelink, TAFE, MYC and other information for the sessions.
The feedback from parents involved was very positive and appreciative of the information.

Thanks to all who presented and to Minto Library, Ambarvale High School and Macarthur Diversity Services offices that provided the venues for the sessions.

Participants at the Pacific Islander session

NAPCAN FOUNDATION

National Child Protection Week
September 4-10, 2005. Take the child friendly challenge. www.napcan.org.au

MYC was invited by the **NAPCAN Foundation** to present at the Macarthur Decision Makers' Forum - towards a Child Friendly Macarthur. Peter Raymond, MYC Coordinator, shared some of the issues and strategies raised by young people and services at the *Learning to Earning* Macarthur Youth Summit.

Indigenous networks

MYC has been involved in meetings with various Indigenous services and groups to discuss transition services for Indigenous young people in area. Discussions have been made with representatives from Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, AEU Coordinator at TAFE, Tharawal Lands Council, GROW, Centrelink Indigenous Coordination unit, Kari Aboriginal Resources and FACS Indigenous coordination. An agreement for a meeting of services in the region has been reached. The meeting will discuss how to best work collaboratively to meet transition needs of indigenous young people.

Call for Nominations!

MYC 2005 Annual Awards

The awards were established in 2004 to acknowledge excellent efforts in assisting young people in the region.

The awards recognise staff, workers, community members from Government, non-government organisations, youth services or individuals who have demonstrated a significant contribution to young people in the areas of education, training and employment.

Nomination forms will be sent to MYC members in term 4 and will be due in December. The 2005 Awards will be announced in April 2006.

Macarthur BEC Staff Giraffes Awards

Rose & Joe

A big congratulations to Rose Leto-Rerecic, the project officer for MYC, for winning the Macarthur Giraffe for best employee in the category of Business Administration. As some of you would know Rose was recently overseas on annual leave jetting through Europe. The awards night went extremely well with a very jetlagged Rose and her partner Joe in quasi zombie like state! In all seriousness Rose is very deserving of her recognition.
Thanks to Macarthur BEC for a great night!

Other news

MYC has been part of the development of *Partners in Employment (PIE)* network for the region. MYC and this network have lobbied DEWR to get a ***Better Connections*** workshop in Macarthur which was held on Aug 23. MYC presented at this event some of the outcomes from our *Learning to Earning* Macarthur Youth Summit.

Want more information about MYC projects and updates?

Then join our yahoo group by emailing MacarthurYC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MYC Management Committee

2005 MYC Board Members: L to R
Kevin Garrick, Mark Berriman, Sue Thomas, Daryl New, Cathie Gerloff, Tina Britton, Denise McGrath

The MYC Management Committee is made up of representatives from Camden & Campbelltown Councils, a high school principal, University of Western Sydney, SWSI of TAFE, Centrelink and Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation. They are a group of people dedicated to young people and youth issues in Macarthur.

The MYC Management Committee had a day workshop in May 26 to look at long term strategies and respond to the funding opportunities. This was a very valuable time and useful feedback from stakeholders informed the day.

MYC Annual General Meeting

2005 MYC Annual General Meeting is scheduled for November 23, venue TBC.

At the AGM, the 2004 / 2005 annual report will be presented and the election of the 2006 Management Committee will take place.

The AGM will also celebrate the achievements and successes of 2004 / 2005.
All members will be sent nominations forms soon. If you are not a MYC member and would like to be contact Rose for a membership form on 4620 1927 or rose.leto-rerecic@tafensw.edu.au

Diary Dates

Oct 13 - MYC Management Committee
Nov 10 - Mentoring meeting
Nov 14 - MYC Consultative Network
Nov 23 - MYC Annual General Meeting
Dec 8 - MYC Management Committee

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