

annual
report

2015



youth network of Tasmania





youth network of Tasmania

the peak body for the
youth sector in Tasmania



Tasmanian youth conference



Tasmanian youth forum

vision

A Tasmania where young people are actively engaged in community life and have access to the resources needed to develop their potential.

mission

To work with young people, the Tasmanian youth sector, the community and all levels of government to increase the participation and contribution of young people in the state.

contents

Chair's report	2
Board members	5
Sponsors and supporters	6
YNOT members	7
CEO report	8
Volunteers	9
Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) Group	10
Youth Action Priorities (YAP)	11
Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC)	12
North West Action for Youth (NWAY)	13
Collaborations: policy, advocacy and communications	14
YNOT 21st AGM and Sector Forum	17
Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania	18
TYF Policy and Project Officer report	19
All about TYF	20
TYF Members and Volunteers	21
National Youth Week	22
Youth Homelessness Matters Day	23
TYF Employment Forum	24
TYF Mental Health Matters Forum	25
Other Opportunities with TYF	26
Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) overview	27
TYC young person report	29
TYC working group	32

chair's report

I first became involved with YNOT through the Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania working group and I'm pleased to say that the work that began four years ago is still going strong.

It's rare to see an initiative like this stay alive and active, and even rarer to see its results flourish and grow. Ideas come and go and it may seem that our efforts are nothing more than just activity for the sake of being busy. The fact that YNOT has produced something so enduring and vital to the youth sector should not surprise anyone.

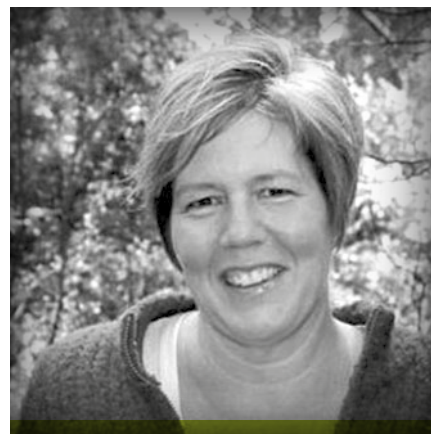
I'm proud of the work that this small team has produced in the last year. Time and time again, the worn out phrase 'punching above its weight' is used to describe this dedicated group of people. A few of the highlights that spring to mind are:

Tasmanian Youth Conference

What strikes me most about this unique event is the seamless mixing of young people and sector workers. It just makes sense. But it's surprisingly rare for this to take place; few events nationally or in other states provide such a worthwhile experience. The whole YNOT team – members past and present – were involved in planning and producing an exceptional event.

Tasmanian Youth Forums

The recent forums on employment and mental health built on the work undertaken previously in the seminal *Should I stay, or should I go?* Forum. The results provide incredibly valuable insights into what matters to young people – and lessons for all of us on how to improve engagement and participation across all aspects of their lives.



Ann Davie, YNOT Chair

Youth Leadership Resources

This timely package informs young people on how to make the most of leadership opportunities, build skills and make a difference in their communities.

Tasmanian Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy

As I write this, it is Mental Health Week in Tasmania. And I am pleased that public discussions about mental health are open and supportive – a significant change from years past. YNOT has helped inform the strategy through the Tasmanian Youth Forums (TYF).

“I’m proud of the work that this small team has produced in the last year. Time and time again, the worn out phrase ‘punching above its weight’ is used to describe this dedicated group of people”

The report produced from the TYF Mental Health Matters Forum is invaluable and, like all YNOT resources, will continue to be useful for years to come.

I’m also proud of the work that the YNOT Board has overseen in the past year. While not the most engaging of subjects to tackle, our governance policies and procedures are clear, comprehensive and, above all, useful to the organisation.

The Board has provided support and guidance to YNOT, and its members are some of the most dedicated and creative people I’ve had the pleasure to work with. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work and friendship. I’d like to acknowledge outgoing board members Mark

Joseph, Dianne Bester, Zoe Jay and Ros Atkinson; they have each contributed so much to the growth and success of YNOT.

I want to acknowledge the ongoing and productive relationship that YNOT has had with the Government. YNOT has benefitted from the support of Premier, Hon Will Hodgman MP, who has recognised the contributions that YNOT can make to informing policy affecting young Tasmanians. I would also like to thank the Hon Guy Barnett MP for his support of YNOT through his role as Parliamentary Secretary. And throughout the structural changes within the Department of Premier and Cabinet, we have continued an excellent relationship with those in Communities, Sport and Recreation.

I can’t close without acknowledging the incredible work of Joanna Siejka. Possibly the only one in existence with the skills, empathy, knowledge and passion required to guide this organisation, she leads a team that continues to make a difference to the lives of young Tasmanians.

In the Chair’s report from last year, Matt Durose quoted a Greek philosopher who said that the only constant is change. The landscape of the youth sector across the country has changed substantially. YNOT is in an enviable position to be able to weather, and even make the most of, change.

Ann Davie
YNOT Chair



board members



Ann Davie, Chair
Australian Clearinghouse
for Youth Studies



Matt Durose, Vice Chair
Mission Australia



Mark Joseph, Treasurer
City of Hobart



Miranda Ashby
Flourish Mental Health



Ros Atkinson
Youth, Family and
Community Connections



Kate Cross
Rural Health



Troy O'Konnah
National Job Link



Griffin Blizzard
TYF Member



Zoe Jay
UN Youth Tasmania/
TYF Member



Dianne Bester
Individual member

Collective members
Karinya Young
Women's Service



sponsors and supporters

Special thanks to Communities, Sport and Recreation, in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as the major funding body for YNOT, TYF and the Tasmanian Youth Conference.



Adriana Taylor MLC

Andrew Wilkie MP

Ashgrove Cheese

Beacon Foundation

Bianca Welsh

Bryan Green MP

Cassy O'Connor MP

Coal River Coaches and Love
Tasmania Tours

Colony 47

Cornerstone Youth Health
Services Inc

Digital Ink

Elise Archer MP

Glenorchy City Council

Greg Hall MLC

The Link Youth Health Service

Headspace Launceston

House of Anvers

In Esse

Ivan Dean MLC

Jacquie Petrusma MP

Jeremy Rockliff MP

Julie Collins MP

Lara Giddings MP

Launceston City Council

Leonie Hiscutt MLC

Lions Club of Brighton

Lions Club of Deloraine

Lions Club of Forth Valley

Lions Club of Kentish

Lions Club of Kingborough

Lions Club of Kings Meadows

Lions Club of Wynyard

Lush Australia

Matthew Groom MP

Mayor Kristie Johnston
(Mayor of GCC)

May Shaw Health

Michelle O'Byrne MP

Mike Gaffney MLC

National Job Link

New Things Now

Nick McKim MP

Northern Youth Coordinating
Committee

Noetic Group

Officeworks Hobart

Rebecca White MP

Red Herring Surf Launceston

Roger Jaensch MP

Rosemary Armitage MLC

Rotary Club of Bellerive

Rotary Club of Hobart

Rotary Club of Ulverstone

Ruth Forrest MLC

Scott Bacon MP

Senator Lisa Singh

Southern Midlands Council

Vanessa Goodwin MLC

Waratah Wynyard Council

Youth, Family and Community
Connections Inc

ynot members



10

reciprocal

12

individual

15

associate

34

organisational

Amanda Street
 Andrew Verdouw
 Ann Davie
 Annie Kenney Young Womens
 Emergency Accommodation
 Service
 Australian Red Cross
 Baptcare FACS
 Beacon Foundation
 Burnie City Council
 Circular Head Council
 Colony 47 Inc
 Communities, Sport and
 Recreation, Department of
 Premier and Cabinet
 Cornerstone Youth Health
 Services Inc
 Derwent Valley Council
 Devonport City Council
 Dianne Bester
 Flourish Mental Health
 Glenorchy City Council
 Griffin Blizzard
 Healthy House

Hobart City Council
 Jonathon O'Neill
 Julie Collins MP
 Karinya Young Women's Service
 Kentish Council
 Kingborough Council
 Latrobe Council
 Launceston City Council
 LAUNCH Youth
 Legal Aid Commission
 of Tasmania
 Lisa Amerikanos
 Matthew Groom MP
 Migrant Resource Centre (North)
 Mike Gaffney MLC
 Mission Australia
 Mission Australia (TYSS)
 Peer Support Foundation Ltd
 Peter Gutwein MHA
 Pulse Youth Health
 Rebecca White MP
 Relationships Australia Tasmania

Richard Muir Wilson
 Rural Health Tasmania
 Ruth Forrest MLC
 Save the Children Australia
 Scott Bacon MP
 Senator Carol Brown
 Senator Christine Milne
 Senator David Bushby
 Sorell Council
 Southern Midlands Council
 Tasmanian Academy - Don College
 Tenants Union of Tasmania Inc
 The Link Youth Health Service
 Theresa Moore
 Troy O'Konnah
 Unions Tasmania
 West Tamar Council
 Working It Out
 Youth Futures
 Youth, Family and Community
 Connections Inc
 Zoe Jay

ceo report

In the past year, YNOT has had to step up and advocate for young people's needs on issues, and in areas, where previously we had funded federal peaks to lead the way.

Considerable change has happened at the federal level and YNOT has been part of these discussions. As a result, YNOT has been active on issues ranging from income protection, education, homelessness and employment at the federal level, drawing upon our work with young Tasmanians in doing so. This work has paid off, with some of our asks being picked up in the federal Youth Employment Strategy.

Much of this past year was spent preparing for the Tasmanian Youth Conference. This was a huge event, made possible by considerable support from the Tasmanian Government and a wide range of sponsors and supporters from across the community. We were able to offer a record number of sponsored positions, enabling young people from every area of the state to attend the conference. Please refer to pages 27-30 for more information on this wonderful event.

Throughout these pages you will see evidence of the considerable work the YNOT team produces. In the past year this work includes:

- producing a pair of Youth Leadership Resources for the sector and young people
 - working to support the first Tasmania Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy
 - holding Tasmanian Youth Forums and producing reports: Employment and Mental Health Matters
 - developing numerous submissions and media releases, and consulting widely with the sector
 - contributing to many forums, committees and advisory groups
 - presenting to a wide variety of audiences on youth issues, as well as having a strong presence in the media and on social media
- We have worked very hard to build and maintain a hardworking and inclusive team at YNOT. We have fantastic people working with us and this means that we can do some really good work. Thanks to Dean Cooper, Tegan Pearce and Bek Gale for being part of the core of YNOT – and to all of the YNOT Board for supporting us. We were also lucky to have a Graduate Policy Officer on secondment from DPAC, with Sophie Fitzgerald placed with us for six months. In addition we have hosted numerous work placements, work experience students and



Joanna Siejka, CEO

interns, as well as benefited from the assistance of numerous volunteers throughout the year, all of whom who have contributed to the work of YNOT (for further information on these dedicated volunteers please see page 9).

Several of our Board members are moving on after several years of dedicated service to YNOT. Thank you to Mark Joseph, Dianne Bester, Zoe Jay and Ros Atkinson for your considerable commitment to YNOT and to Tasmanian young people. Ros, in particular, has been a YNOT Board member for many years and we thank her and Youth Family and Community Connections for their contributions to YNOT during this time.

“We have worked very hard to build and maintain a hardworking and inclusive team at YNOT”

Thanks also must go to Communities, Sport and Recreation in the Department of Premier and Cabinet for their support during this past year. We also appreciate the positive working relationship we have with the Premier, Will Hodgman, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Community Development, Guy Barnett, and their support of our work. In this past year, we have also worked closely with the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate, Department of Health and Human Services, who have supported our role in the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Most importantly, YNOT’s work is dependent on our dedicated membership base, and the many supportive organisations and individuals who assist us to achieve our collective goals for Tasmanian young people. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support of Tasmanian young people.

Joanna Siejka
CEO

volunteers

Alan Poole	Heidi La Paglia	Obsa Abdulmajid
Ald Danny Gibson	Jayden Mansfield	Paula Rooney
Anita O’Callaghan	Jayde Robinson	Peter Mackenzie
Ann Davie	Jess Gilroy	Naomi Marsh
Anthony King	Jessica Bennetto	Natasha Harback
Ben Waterworth	Jobe Boucher	Rajeev Chakradhar
Brett Maryniak	Jo Murray	Rebekka Gale
Brian Bell	Juliah Fraser	Rhiannon Langridge
Briar Walker	Julie Gale	Richard Muir Wilson
Caitlin Frost	Karen Leamen	Sam Cowie
Caleb Nichols-Mansell	Katalin Madden	Samia Provan
Cathy McClure	Kate Lynch	Sam Jackson
Cedrick Mulumba	Kate Taylor	Sandra Charlton
Chelsea Griggs	Kelly Deane	Sharon Clarke
Codie Graham	Kelvyn Linton	Simone Zell
Dakoda Leary	Kym Johnson	Sophie Fitzgerald
Danis Chong	Lawrence Gino	Tait Fraser
Danni Murfet	Lisa Amerikanos	Tali Auliitia
Des Dusautoy	Lydia Gorniak	Tom Bain
Dianne Bester	Lyndal McKay	Troy O’Konnah
Dominique Smith	Mark Joseph	Zac Lockhart
Elisa Ryan	Mark Potter	Zeinab Eldayar
Eva Mackinley	Matt Durose	Zoe Jay
Farah Ashikin	Matthew Fargher	
Gavin Riley	Matt Hill	
Georgie Baines	Mel Gunn	
Griffin Blizzard	Metika Claxton	
Hani Provan	Miranda Ashby	

Statewide Youth Collaborative (SYC) Group

The Statewide Youth Collaborative Group has continued to meet quarterly in 2014–2015. We have had good representation from a number of government agencies and the community sector, with some changes and additions to the group as the sector has continued to grow.



Guest speakers have included Christy Measham (Family Planning Tasmania and Celina Sargent (Public Health Service), Gillian Long (Multicultural Youth Advisory Network), Bek Gale (YNOT) and Jane Austin (Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Directorate).

This year saw the creation and launch of the “Is Your Service Youth Friendly?” resources, which were exceptionally popular and distributed to a range of services across the state and sectors. The resources included a checklist for services to see if they were youth friendly, a poster promoting services as youth friendly, and a pocket card for young people providing information about youth friendly services in each region. SYC also attended a stakeholder consultation workshop and provided a comprehensive response to the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy for Tasmania.

Nina Manning
SYC Secreteriat

Youth Action Priorities (YAP)

Youth Action Priorities (YAP) continues to provide a valuable forum for youth services in southern Tasmania to network across the region, identify resources, goals and issues that have an impact on the lives of young people and to advocate on behalf of their communities.



Facilitated by Hobart City Council's Community Inclusion Unit, YAP activities and discussions are driven by members including representatives from health, social, educational, recreational and cultural organisations at a community, local and state government level.

Along with North West Action for Youth (NWAY) and Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC), YAP provides an opportunity for YNOT to identify patterns across the state and to coordinate

responses accordingly. YAP undertook a review of its Terms of Reference, hosted a presentation from Save the Children on juvenile justice support programs and from Community Training Australia on opportunities for people to gain youth work and counselling qualifications. YAP looks forward to hosting further presentations for the benefit of all members in the coming months!

Josie Young
YAP Chair

Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC)

The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) is a special committee of Council as defined in the Local Government Act (TAS) 1993.

The primary purpose of NYCC is to provide an opportunity for federal, state and local government and Non-Government youth service providers to come together to achieve a more coordinated approach to addressing youth issues across Northern Tasmania. It aims to provide a way for services to work cooperatively on youth issues in order that agencies can share resources to provide the best range of appropriate services to young people.

During the 2014-15 financial year NYCC membership grew to over 130 members. Chaired by Alderman Danny Gibson and convened by the City of Launceston's Youth Development Officer, NYCC held five regular meetings and a workshop in February to discuss a new online resource: Seriously Smashed. The discussion was in respect to the resource being rolled

out beyond the Glenorchy City Council, where it was first initiated. A special National Youth Week meeting was held on 5 March 2015.

With an annual budget of \$2,500, NYCC provided funding towards the following NYCC member projects over the year:

- \$500 to fund production of postcards used to promote the Smoke Free Young People Strategy; a collaboration of service providers to protect young Tasmanians from the harmful effects of tobacco use. Smoke Free Young People is a working group which sits under and reports to the Tobacco Control Coalition.
- \$400 for tools and a mechanic's bike stand for a project delivered in Launceston. The initiative was coordinated by Relationships Australia.

- \$720 for six Tasmanian Youth Conference delegate registrations.
- \$280 towards an Uluru Pilgrimage for 12 young people. The Pilgrimage, facilitated by Fusion Australia - Tasmania, provided an opportunity to learn about Indigenous history and reconciliation. The project aims to build ambassadors of reconciliation as they continue to build future leaders for northern Tasmania.
- \$500 to fund the Fusion Launceston Youth Program, facilitated by Fusion Australia - Tasmania.

Tamara Clark
NYCC Secretariat

North West Action for Youth (NWAY)



The North West Action for Youth (NWAY) Group continues to be a solid platform for information sharing within the youth sector.

The group focuses on networking and collaboration opportunities for youth sector providers across the North West Coast. Activities and discussions are driven by members including representatives from health, social, educational, recreational and cultural organisations at a community, local and state government level.

NWAY hosted many guest speakers throughout the year including Lynne Jarvis from the Tasmanian Association of Hospice & Palliative Care who talked about how their programs target and relate to

young people, and Laura Beer from Community Training Australia who spoke about opportunities to study diploma level degrees. NWAY members also participated in Brief Intervention for Smoking Cessation for Young People training that was delivered by Kat Fraser and Lynne Wickam from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Special thanks must go to Alderman Sandra French for her continued support of NWAY as the Chairperson.

Katie Smith
NWAY Secretariat

Collaborations: policy, advocacy and communications

Sector collaborations

It has continued to be challenging for young people to have their voices heard at the federal level with peak bodies continuing to be defunded. Despite losing core funding in 2013, the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), has continued to operate, although at a reduced level of activity and with fewer resources. In spite of these challenges AYAC has been able to make strategic actions for young people through being present at the Australian Federal Budget Lock-up, responding to the McClure Review and commenting on key issues affecting young people.

YNOT is the Tasmanian representative and the current Chair on the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), which is the peak youth homelessness group in Australia. Participation in NYCH involves biannual meetings in Canberra, regular teleconferences, contribution to Homelessness

Australia policy development and the coordination of the national awareness campaign, Youth Homelessness Matters Day (for more information on this event go to page 23). YNOT is a member of Shelter Tasmania's Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group (TYHHG), which provides a key mechanism for contributing to the Tasmanian policy advice to NYCH.

YNOT has continued to be an active participant in the Tasmanian Community Sector Peaks Network (TCSPN) throughout 2014-15. This network enables YNOT to collaborate with a broader range of community sector organisations that deliver services to young people. The TCSPN meets regularly with the Government, through the Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum. During the past year, YNOT has contributed to the Annual Report for the Partnership Agreement between the Community Sector and State Government.

Policy, consultations and advocacy

During 2014-15 there have been many consultations on the issues which affect young people on a local, state and national level. YNOT's policy development framework involved consulting with young people and the youth sector, as well as researching key issues. YNOT's consultation processes can involve meetings, phone interviews, online surveys, written submissions and forums. YNOT has conducted a number of consultations with young people and the sector across the state in the last year. This has included formal consultations for the development of the YNOT Budget Submission to Treasury 2015-16.

Advocacy work

8
presentations

17
submissions

33
forums,
committees
and advisory
groups

48
media
mentions

8
media
releases

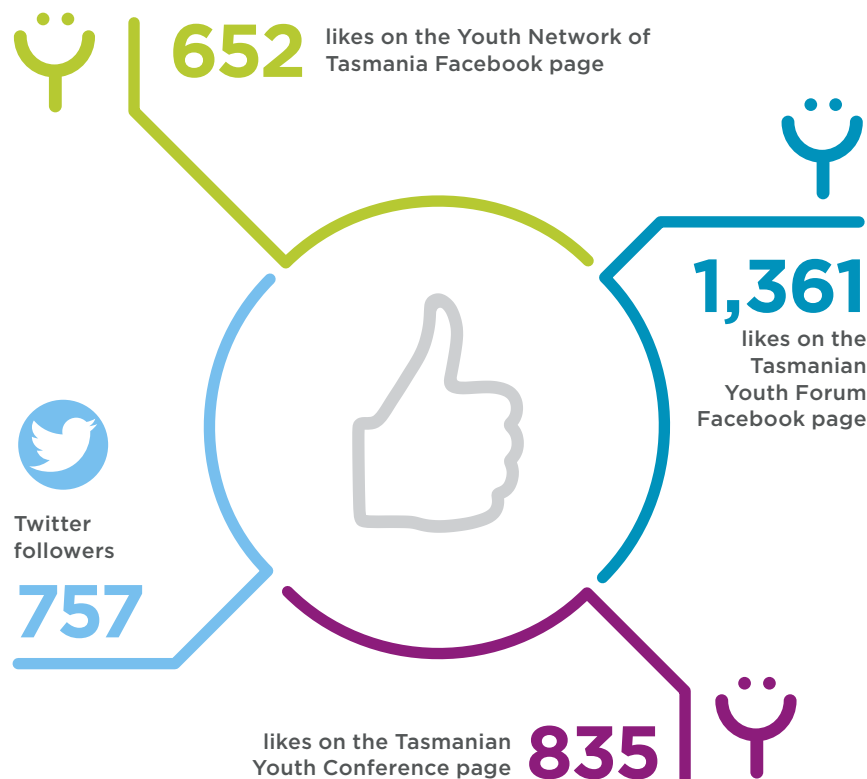
Communications

Sector newsletter

YNOT prepares and distributes a Sector Update at the beginning of each month. Sector Update newsletters are presented against the YNOT 2013-16 goal areas of youth participation, youth issues, professionalisation of the workforce, strong peak body, community and government.

Social media

Social media provides an additional way for YNOT to communicate with members and young people about opportunities, consultations, information, news and events. This year YNOT has continued to increase its reach on social media platforms which has currently grown to:





YNOT AGM and Sector Forum

21st

In 2014, YNOT celebrated its 21st birthday! In its 21 years, YNOT has gone through many changes and has achieved great things for young people and the youth sector in Tasmania.

Past and present YNOT staff, volunteers, members, sponsors, supporters and workers from other organisations were invited to attend to help YNOT celebrate this milestone.

The event included speeches and the handing over of a giant green key, keeping with 21st birthday traditions. Dave Willans, the first Executive Officer of YNOT, Ros Atkinson, CEO of Youth, Family and Community Connections and long time YNOT Board member, and Tegan Pearce, current TYF Policy and Project Officer and past TYF volunteer,

gave speeches and shared stories about their involvement with YNOT over the years. Following the speeches, Hon Guy Barnett, MP Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, handed over the 21st birthday key to young people currently involved with YNOT through the Tasmanian Youth Forums.

The event was decked out in various green decorations and featured a photo booth to capture photos of party guests. On display was a timeline of YNOT's journey which showed the changes and work



Rebekka Gale,
YNOT Project Officer

of YNOT over the 21 years. It was great to see so many different things included on the timeline and showed just how much YNOT has achieved and contributed to the youth sector and young people during this time. As with any birthday celebration, there was a lot of time for catching up with old friends and meeting new ones and of course there was birthday cake.

YNOT would like to thank everyone who made the 21st birthday possible by contributing to YNOT over the past 21 years and we hope to be celebrating again in another 21 years!

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Project Officer



Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania

The *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania* was launched in December 2012. YNOT has continued to work with individuals and organisations to offer training for using the framework with the end goal of developing a full training plan for the framework.



The *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania* was developed by a group of sector representatives from all across Tasmania who represent various parts of the Tasmanian youth sector. The framework aims to support the role of workers in meeting the needs of young people in Tasmania.

Although the framework is an excellent starting point, feedback and consultation with the youth sector has indicated that training to assist workers to apply and implement the framework is something youth sector workers in Tasmania want.

On 5 August, Andrew Cummings facilitated a Tasmanian Youth Conference pre-conference professional development workshop *Developing Ethical Youth Work Practice*. Feedback from participants indicated that they found this workshop beneficial and they would like to see additional training sessions offered. As a result of this feedback, Andrew will be facilitating two further

training workshops focused on implementing the framework at the YNOT AGM on 18 November.

YNOT will continue to work with the youth sector in Tasmania to offer information training opportunities for *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania*. Stay tuned!

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Project Officer

Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) policy and project officer report

The past year has been an important one for young people to stand up and have their voices heard by key decision makers, as there have been a lot of changes and discussions around issues that directly impact young people such as employment, education, housing and mental health.

Young people have demonstrated their willingness to contribute ideas and solutions to these issues through their participation in TYF Statewide Youth Forums, TYC and events such as National Youth Week.

In particular, the *Youth Employment and Mental Health Matters* Statewide Forums have gained a lot of attention from decision makers who are interested in finding out what young people have contributed and how they can progress the ideas that have been raised. YNOT, other organisations

and key decision makers are consistently referring back to the Reports from these Forums to inform the work that is happening in these spaces. It is very exciting to see this happen and a big thank you must go to all the young people who have participated in these events and have been so generous when sharing their ideas.

In addition to the TYF events, there have been lots of TYF members who have volunteered their time over the past year to ensure that the work of TYF is a success. Young people have helped in the planning of TYF events, at TYF Statewide Youth Forums, at TYC, in the YNOT office and by representing TYF at various events. Young people who are involved with TYF demonstrate that they are keen to contribute to the broader community and make a difference, and TYF is always looking for more young people who would like to be a part of TYF. The contributions that TYF members make are greatly appreciated and I would like to acknowledge those who have volunteered their time to support TYF.



Tegan Pearce,
TYF Policy and Project Officer

Once again, TYF has received a lot of support from the YNOT Board and staff who continue to strive to make a difference for young Tasmanians. They are committed to ensuring there are meaningful opportunities for young people to have their say.

I look forward to working with young people and the YNOT team over the next year to ensure that this continues.

Tegan Pearce
TYF Policy and Project Officer

all about TYF

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) is for young people aged 12 to 25. TYF holds Forums through the year with varying topics. In the past year, Forums have been on the topics of Youth Employment and Mental Health Matters.

The Forums discuss topics that are relevant and can let young people learn what to do in certain situations, be it to give others advice, or to prepare themselves.

By attending the Forums, young people can be involved by voicing their opinions, thoughts and issues that are relevant to them. At the end of the Forums, a report is written and is accessible to those that can help with issues and ideas raised at the Forums, such as politicians or youth workers.

When I came to volunteer at the Youth Network of Tasmania, everything was in full swing for the Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC). I helped with the planning and preparations as well as attending TYC as a helper whilst experiencing the sessions and speakers. It was very interesting and it built my confidence immensely. Along the

way, I've done other jobs such as researching topics and tips for people with, or helping someone with, a mental illness, icebreaker games for people to use and play, as well as writing and feedback.

I've been volunteering since early April of 2015, and already I've made friends and contacts I wouldn't have otherwise. I couldn't imagine this year without the experiences I've had and the lessons I have learned. Feeling like I fit in has made it easier to throw myself into the tasks wholeheartedly and I look forward to what will happen next, although I feel reluctant to leave.

Jessica Bennetto
TYF Member

2

Tasmanian Youth Forums

1

Tasmanian Youth Conference

2

youth report launches

7

young people on work experience

9

youth-led organisations attended network meetings

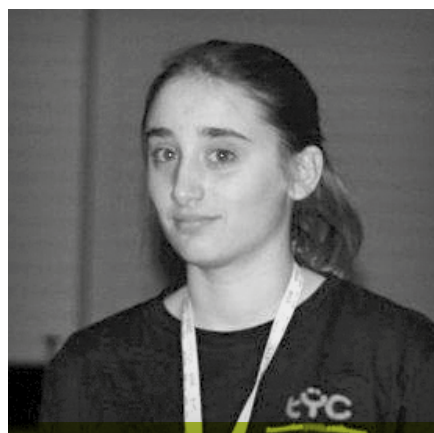
38

young people volunteered at YNOT



members and volunteers

TYF has received lots of support from members and volunteers over the past year, especially in the lead up to and during the TYF events and TYC. We would like to acknowledge these young people who have contributed their time to ensuring the voices of young people in Tasmania are heard by decision makers.



**Jessica Bennetto,
TYF Member**

Ben Waterworth
Brett Maryniak
Brian Bell
Briar Walker
Caitlin Frost
Caleb Nichols-Mansell
Cedrick Mulumba
Chelsea Griggs
Codie Graham
Dakoda Leary
Danis Chong
Danni Murfet
Des Dusautoy
Eva Mackinley
Farah Ashikin
Georgie Baines
Griffin Blizzard
Hani Provan
Heidi La Paglia
Jayden Mansfield
Jess Gilroy
Jessica Bennetto

Jobe Boucher
Juliah Fraser
Kate Lynch
Kelly Deane
Kelvyn Linton
Lawrence Gino
Lydia Gorniak
Metika Claxton
Naomi Marsh
Natasha Harback
Obsa Abdulmajid
Rajeev Chakradhar
Rebekka Gale
Sam Cowie
Samia Provan
Tait Fraser
Tali Auliitia
Tom Bain
Zac Lockhart
Zeinab Eldayar
Zoe Jay

239

young people
attended
Tasmanian Youth
Forum events

588

young people
completed
surveys



National Youth Week

National Youth Week (NYW) is Australia's largest event that celebrates those Australians aged 12 to 25. Built around the theme *It Starts with Us* the 2015 NYW, running from 10 to 19 April, gave young people the opportunity to really engage and play a critical role in the development, implementation and running of the multitude of events that covered not only Tasmania, but Australia.

Designed to allow young people the opportunity to express their creativity, ideas, and achievements and contribute to the community, the events in National Youth Week provide endless entertainment to the public while focusing on the positive impact young people can have. Some of the events included outdoor adventure days, music events with young performers, photo booths, art workshops, community barbeques, a colour run, digital arts festival highlighting young artists, movie nights showcasing films by young people, a youth makers market and sailing experiences.

YNOT was heavily involved in National Youth Week, focusing on the issue of Youth Homelessness Matters Day; YNOT hosted an impressive event in Hobart's

Franklin Square to mark Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD). Filled with entertainment, jumping castle, photo booth, music, break dancers, and free food and juice, the event provided a physical presence to the YHMD national online campaign along with the opportunity for young people to help run the event and raise

awareness of the issue in the local community. A number of services were also involved with the event including Colony 47 Mara House, Youth Family and Community Connections, Youth Arts and Recreation Centre, Headspace and Feeding the Future.

Brett Maryniak
TYF Member



Youth Homelessness Matters Day

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) is an annual national campaign that aims to raise awareness of youth homelessness in Australia.



Run by the National Youth Coalition for Housing (NYCH), chaired by YNOT, the campaign focused on using social media to reach as many people as possible including politicians, decision makers in communities and community members, as well as encouraging organisations to host their own local events.

This year, the hashtag #YHMD2015 trended on Twitter in Australia reaching over 500,000 Twitter users. A key part of the success of YHMD are the YHMD Ambassadors who support the campaign by liking, sharing and acting.

YHMD Ambassador Report

Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) 2015 was EPIC! Tasmania showed that it really cared about youth homelessness! There were events, media coverage and community education and awareness raising. When I was first homeless, I had no idea about YHMD. I had heard homelessness could happen to anyone, but I never believed it. Then it did happen. It was a horrible situation, but I found that I thrived in adversity, overcame challenges and today I can speak as an ambassador for Youth Homelessness Matters Day. This year, I spoke on different media channels on TV as well as radio. I was able to share the message that we must no longer stand by and simply watch as young people are homeless. We need to identify when a young person may be facing difficulties and work towards solving the issue! We are people, we are young people. We are not invisible, and we are not going to stand back, huddled in the shadows afraid to tell our stories. We are strong, vocal and determined. Determined to not just talk about youth homelessness, but to help bring it to an end. It's a goal that will be difficult to achieve, and will take time. But things like YHMD will aid us in this goal and together we will fight for a better tomorrow for young people, and for a world in which we will no longer hear the horror stories of youth homelessness! Bring on YHMD 2016!

Zac Lockhart

YHMD Ambassador and TYF Member

TYF employment forum

The Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) provided young people aged 12 - 25 an opportunity to have a say on getting a job and anything job related at the *Youth Employment Forum*.

My sister and I left from Latrobe at approximately 8:50am. Whilst on the bus, we meet students from Don College, Reece High School, Burnie High School and a few other schools located around Burnie and other places in North-West Tasmania. On arrival, I was amazed at the venue size. It was a very large building. Once inside, we entered the theatre room and sat down. The facilitator talked about the day's events, why we were there and what we would be doing. During the day I participated in different activities and discussion groups where people could express what they thought about job-related ideas. Several of the topics were based around unemployment, work ethics, and employment preparation. I mainly participated in the group focused on 'Developing Skills'.



YNOT Staff and Board with Premier, Hon Will Hodgman at the launch

Other issues discussed were related to:

- The roles of education
- Qualifications and experience
- Volunteering
- Job searching
- Employment service agencies
- Writing resumes

The group also went into deep discussions based on retaining, change, and a few other subjects. I also listened to several guest speakers and workers. One of the guest speakers was Bianca Welsh who is 26 years old and is a co-owner of two Launceston restaurants;

Stillwater Restaurant and Black Cow Bistro. At the event I received advice and insights from the guest-speakers as to where they were in their personal growth, and how they got to where they are now. Towards the end of the day we gathered information as a group and presented it to the audience. The group I was participating in designed a chart named 'Pizza Preferences'. We discussed and shared ideas based on how schools could improve, to include creating courses more relevant to a youth's needs. These ideas were also presented. We had a lot of media coverage of the Forum.

Kelvyn Linton
TYF Member

TYF mental health matters forum

The TYF *Mental Health Matters* Forum took place in Launceston on 20 March 2015. Young people from all across the state gathered to share their experiences and ideas about positive mental health.

The forum began with a brainstorming session where young people were asked what currently supports or encourages their mental health and also what barriers or limitations exist for young people in relation to positive mental health. The forum was then divided into smaller discussion groups and young people could attend two of these groups on topics that were of most interest to them. These topics included: study, family, technology, grief and loss and employment. The discussion groups were asked to develop some ideas of things that could be created in Tasmania to help young people to be mentally healthy and to choose one idea to share with the whole group. At the end of the day everyone voted on the two ideas that they would most like to see happen. Some of the ideas young people came up with included: a pocket social worker app, mandatory pre-parenting training and expanding on existing youth centres to make them more accessible for young people.

The forum enabled young people to have their voices heard about positive mental health and to share their ideas of how barriers and issues can be dealt with and resolved. Two reports, *Mental Health Matters: What Young People Said*, and *Mental Health Matters: What You Said*, were developed to outline all of the ideas discussed by young people at the forum and through the online survey. These two reports will be used in the development of the first Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy for Tasmania.

YNOT and TYF would like to thank all those individuals, including the many volunteers who supported the event. We would also like to thank Youth, Family and Community Connections, Headspace Launceston and Cornerstone Youth Services who supported the event and our event sponsor, Communities, Sport and Recreation within the Department of Premier and Cabinet for making the forum possible.

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Project Officer



other opportunities with TYF

As TYF is all about encouraging young people to have their say, TYF promotes other opportunities where young people can have the opportunity to voice their concerns and ideas. This includes consultations run by YNOT, such as the YNOT Budget Submission to the State Government, and consultations by other organisations, such as the Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey.

Over the past year, TYF has also been represented on a number of panels, boards and committees such as the Colony 47 Education and Training Advisory Board and the National Youth Week 2015 Grants Panel, enabling the voice of young people to be heard during decision making processes. TYF members also represented TYF at various community events such as the launch of White Ribbon Day and R U OK? Day.

This year, TYF members were selected to be part of the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) Hothouse Project which involved contributing creative solutions for education in Tasmania.

This year also saw the development of the youth-led sector network. This network is for any organisations that are run by young people and who have young people aged 12 to 25 as their members. The network, facilitated by TYF, provides the chance for representatives from these organisations to network, share information and identify opportunities for collaboration both with other organisations and TYF.

TYF also encourages young people to be advocates by providing opportunities for them to share their ideas and experiences. Young people spoke at the launch of the TYF *Youth Employment* Reports to share their experiences at the Forum. TYF members have also

participated in numerous media appearances including radio, television and newspaper on issues such as youth participation, employment, mental health, homelessness and, drugs and alcohol.

All young people are encouraged to connect and interact with TYF through the TYF Facebook page, Twitter page and mailing list. TYF uses these platforms to promote upcoming events, consultation opportunities, opportunities to volunteer, workshops and information that is relevant to young people in Tasmania.

Tegan Pearce

TYF Policy and Project Officer



TYC15 was held on 6-7 August 2015
at the Launceston Conference
Centre in South Launceston



152
young people



46 volunteers
62 sponsored
positions



149
sector

TYC15

Tasmanian Youth Conference
(TYC) overview

50
presenters

5
keynotes



606
feedback
forms

24
stallholders

Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) overview continued

2015 was the third time TYC was open to young people aged 12-25 and to the wider youth sector. TYC15 attracted around 250 attendees making it one of the largest community sector conferences in Tasmania!

Workshops and presentations were divided into sessions for:

- Young people
- Youth sector workers
- Sessions for young people and youth sector workers

The conference was opened by Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, and was hosted, for the third time, by two local journalists, Ben Waterworth and Tali Aulilitia. Over the two days TYC included presentations, workshops, interactive sessions, keynote speakers and entertainment. The conference also included a pre-conference professional development workshop on the *Youth Ethics Framework for Tasmania*.

Many organisations, in addition to sending workers along, took the opportunity to promote their services and interact with attendees in the Stall and Exhibition Space, with 23 stallholders representing youth-led organisations and the Tasmanian youth sector.

Young people came from all over the state to participate, including young people from Burnie, Huonville, Rosny and Latrobe. With the generous support from politicians and community groups, such as Lions and Rotary clubs, YNOT was able to offer sixty sponsored places to young people who would otherwise find attending challenging. This doubled the number of sponsored positions that were available in previous years.



**Rowena Clark-Hansen,
Tyler Neal and Rose Von Bibra**

Due to the generous donations from local businesses there were several prizes up for grabs during both days of TYC, including during the Op Shop Ball.

The OpShop Ball, also held at the Launceston Conference Centre, was held as the evening event at the conference. This provided attendees with the opportunity to network with others, as well as entertainment and a meal for those who travelled to attend the event.

YNOT would like to thank the workers, volunteers, organisations and attendees that made TYC15 possible and such a successful event.

Rebekka Gale
YNOT Project Officer

“We can really be the change that we want to see and I am passionate about engaging youth in that journey”

Rowena Clark-Hansen
Workshop Presenter, Oaktree

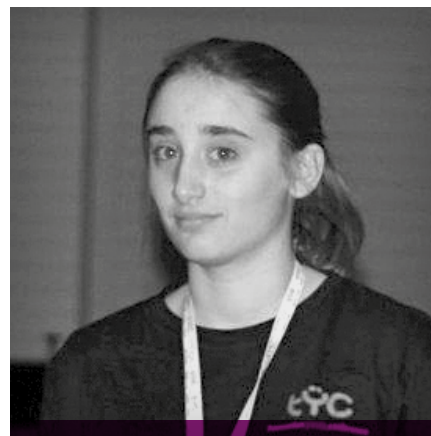
TYC young person report

The Tasmanian Youth Conference (TYC) is an event for young people aged 12 to 25 and youth sector workers alike. At TYC, there was a wide array of speakers, workshops and people that you could interact with and learn from.

The welcoming nature of the volunteers and workers at TYC was refreshing and very much calming. Even though I was nervous because it was my first time attending something like this, I felt as though there was no reason to worry within the first few minutes of being there. It was a calming experience and started the conference off with a smile, not to mention a laugh. Although large functions like this may alienate and leave out attendees, I didn't feel this way at any time during TYC. Everywhere I looked there were people interacting with others. Because of this, it was so much easier to take in the information and learn about what interested me.

There were multiple sessions and workshops that I really enjoyed. The two that really stood out for me would have been the Memory Mnemonics session and the Online Legal Safety workshop. The presentations were excellent and the presenters were interested in listening to the participants, answering their questions and staying behind afterwards to talk with us. It was an amazing amount of knowledge that you got from going to the different sessions, such as new ways to remember things or the different laws relating to technology.

There were a lot of personal lessons that I learned, the most obvious for me being that a little confidence goes a long way. I left my comfort zone and approached those I didn't know, asking questions and participating in things that terrified me. Within the two days spent at



Jessica Bennetto,
TYC Volunteer and Participant

TYC, I had made many friends, many of which I'm still in contact with and talk to daily. TYC gave me the courage to talk to people.

The whole of the conference was an amazing experience. It was a way to make friends and gain amazing contacts, which I'm sure many did, and the workshops themselves made it easy to learn as they were very interesting.

Jessica Bennetto
TYC Volunteer and Participant

TYC Interview Snapshots

by Rajeev Chakradhar



Sandra Charlton

“When you want to be heard most of the time whether you are a kid or an adult, you put your hand up: your hand is a powerful thing”

Sandra Charlton

Session Speaker, Mission Australia

“There’s around about a third of Tasmanian unemployed, and a very large proportion are young people. It’s only very recently that they’ve come to acknowledge that there are not enough jobs out there for young people”

Elizabeth Daly

Session Presenter, Colony 47



Elizabeth Daly

“When you go there you feel like you’re going to be an outsider but instantly you become an insider. People just treat you as a family”

Jobe Boucher

TYC Volunteer, Pulse Studio



Jobe Boucher

“I’ve sat on a lot of different boards and committees but I’m usually the youngest person in the room, and I find every single time I’ll have a perspective that no one else in the room has”

Heidi La Paglia

Panel Speaker, TUU President, UTAS



Heidi La Paglia



Kylie Dunn

“I define success as when you are living a life that really is in line to who you are because it is such a personal thing. People tend to think career finance when they think of success; you’ve got to think everything”

Kylie Dunn

Keynote Speaker, Author

“This is going pretty awesome, the people we’ve met are very inspiring and all the sessions we’ve been to because there are different things”

Peter MB

Rapper & TYC Volunteer



Peter MB

TYC working group

TYC planning and development was coordinated by YNOT with the valuable input and assistance from the TYC15 Working Group. The TYC Working Group included representatives from various organisations and included several young people, who all worked together to plan, organise, promote and pull off TYC15.

Ann Davie

Australian Clearinghouse
for Youth Studies

Anthony King

Department of Premier
and Cabinet

Dakoda Leary

Glenorchy Youth Taskforce

Dean Cooper

YNOT

Eva Mackinley

TYF

Jayden Mansfield

Pulse Youth Health

Joanna Siejka

YNOT

Mark Joseph

Hobart City Council

Rebekka Gale

YNOT

Simone Zell

University of Tasmania

Tegan Pearce

YNOT/TYF

Troy O'Konnah

National Job Link



TYC15





youth network of Tasmania