

Project Report Update as at January 2012 from Andrew Legge, Youth & Community Development Officer

Youth Council/Youth Leadership Program

The Latrobe City Youth Council continued to meet every other Tuesday as planned during September, October and November 2011, while the Latrobe City Youth Leadership Program was conducted once a month at various locations.



The Latrobe City Youth Councillors and the participants of the Youth

Leadership program attended the end of year celebration held at Latrobe City's corporate headquarters in Morwell on Tuesday, 6 December 2011.

The Youth Councillors presented to the audience the highlights for the 2011 year which included:

- The successful Youth Info Card.
- The learnings gained from attending the Sister Cities Youth Conference in Toowoomba.
- Attendance at the Halogen 10,000 ideas Youth Conference.
- Meeting with local MP Russell Northe and visiting Parliament House.
- Presentation of two research projects focussing on Youth Spaces in Regional Victoria and online gaming.
- Input into the Draft Library Plan, the Moe Revitalisation Project and the Morwell Skate Park Design.
- Mental Health Awareness Day.
- Visits to the Gippsland Water factory and the Australian Paper Mill.
- 'Day in the life of a University Student' with Monash University Gippsland.

We are now in the process of recruiting for the 2012 Latrobe City Youth Council and Youth Leadership Program.

FReeZA

The Latrobe City FReeZA committee held its fourth and final event for the 2011 year on Saturday 17 December 2011. Latrobe Youth Festival was held at the Churchill Skate Park with around 300 young people attending the activities throughout the day.

Six local bands performing live, a professional skateboarding demo, and a skateboarding competition were the major events in the Youth Festival.

The Latrobe Regional Gallery supported the event by holding a Graffiti Art workshop.

It was great to see so many enthusiastic young people from all around the region of various ages turn out with their skateboards, bikes and scooters to take advantage of the fantastic weather and the recently upgraded skate park facilities.

The event was supported by the Churchill and District Community Association.

StraighTALK

The StraighTALK program has been around for several years, and is the combined work of the Smith Family and the Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network). The program brings together adolescent young male students in year 8 from various schools in the Latrobe area with professional men who are a part of the local workforce.

The program allows the men and students to talk over lunch in small groups about career aspirations, goals, paths to employment, and becoming young leaders in these communities.

I participated in the StraighTALK Programs from September to December 2011, and always enjoyed being able to have a relaxed conversation with young men in the community. This also allows me to find out what are some of the current interests and issues affecting teenage boys in our area.

Latrobe Youth Network (LYN)

The LYN is a collective group of professionals from various youth services providers who meet on a monthly basis, to discuss current issues effecting young people in their relevant fields. These issues vary from housing issues, truancy, self harm, and substance abuse just to name a few.

As a collective we hope to spread our resource and share knowledge to provide the young people in the local area a better quality of service.

This year the LYN has continued to meet on a monthly basis, a recurring theme has been around the use of the internet and new technologies such as cyber-networking, cyber-bullying and the risks associated with sending sexually explicit photos via mobile phones etc.

Regional Youth Affairs Network (RYAN)

The RYAN acts as a communication tool between the Policy Makers, Ministers, the Office of Youth and the professional youth service providers in regional Victoria.

The RYAN group held its final quarterly meeting for the year in Leongatha, the main topic of the day 'Youth and Underage Sentencing.