


# City of Launceston Youth Advisory Group 2016 Report

---



# YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

*Photo courtesy of The Examiner*

A dark, grayscale photograph of a group of young people and adults gathered around a table, looking at a newspaper. The image is dimly lit, with the subjects' faces and the newspaper's text being the primary light sources. The newspaper has the headline 'BRIGHT FUTURE FOR LABRIS YOUTH' visible on its front page.

*Since its inception in 1997, the Launceston Youth Advisory Group (YAG) has worked to promote the contributions that young people make to their municipality and the broader community.*

*YAG comprises of young people aged 12–25 years and selected mentors who provide guidance. The groups' primary role is to act as a consultative and communicative link between City of Launceston Council and young people. YAG also plays a vital role in informing and advising the broader community about matters that affect them.*

# Council Business

*Youth Advisory Group members are young leaders in a shared decision-making environment who have the opportunity to present to Council on matters of importance, as required.*

## Member Orientation to Council

On 6 September 2016, Youth Advisory Group members were given a Town Hall tour by the Civic Affairs Coordinator as part of YAG's orientation to council. Members learnt about the history of the City of Launceston and processes within local government.

## Governor General Civic Reception

On 18 October 2016, YAG members attended the civic reception for His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd). YAG members shared how they have contributed to the Launceston community through their committee membership.

## YAG Presentation to Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

YAG members are planning to present at the Strategic Planning and Policy meeting in early 2017. The presentation will highlight the committee's achievements for the year.



## Launceston City Heart Project

*Report from City Heart Youth Representative, Joey Crawford*

Over the past few months, the shift of City Heart has been towards the activation of areas which we have redeveloped; in particular, Dicky White's

Lane and the Quadrant Mall. So it is really exciting to see YAG beginning to operate in that space with our Mental Health event centred in Dicky White's Lane on October 22. The role of the Youth Representative has always been, from my view, to ensure the City Heart Projects carefully consider how the city can be a space for young people to engage in.

Just recently we have begun developing strategies for activation in these city spaces, and one that I'm developing, with Alderman Wood, is the feasibility of a busker/street performer festival in the heart of Launceston. Other activation projects that YAG may be involved in are developing street art and family movie night/s.

# Supporting Launceston

*The Youth Advisory Group members are passionate about making a difference to social issues and the lives of young people in Launceston. During the year members have supported awareness campaigns, sought feedback and created events to deliver key messages.*

## Family Violence and Respectful Relationships Consultation

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) is the peak consultative body for young people in Tasmania aged 12–25. YNOT selected YAG as one of ten recognised groups they wanted to consult with about family violence and respectful relationships.

YNOT's aim of the consultation was to find out what young people think influences family violence and their attitudes towards this. Discussions through this process enabled a focus on generating ideas and solutions. YAG's responses will form part of the Youth Network of Tasmania's research report that will be presented to State Government.

## Men's Health Event Volunteering

Cornerstone Youth Service Inc (CYS) delivers a broad range of services to the community of young people in North and North-West Tasmania. CYS were successful in securing a funding grant from The Northern Youth Coordinating Committee (NYCC) to support a Men's Health Week Awareness Campaign event.

The event took place at a local Tasmanian State League football ground on a match day and targeted towards 12–25 year olds to raise awareness about the importance of Men's Health.

YAG members volunteered their time, and worked with other volunteers from the Migrant Resource Centre youth group, West Tamar's Youth Advisory Council, headspace Youth Reference Group and Relationships Australia. Volunteers distributed surveys on men's health, spoke to young men about their health and provided educational and support resources.

This experience was rewarding for the volunteers and particularly memorable for some young people who had never attended an Australian Rules football match before.

## YAG member guest speaker at State Youth Forum

The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) holds State-wide Youth Forums during the year. These topic-based events aim to provide young Tasmanians with the chance to talk about the issues they are passionate

about, as well as plan strategies to make change in their community.

The topic of the forum held in Launceston during May focussed on housing and homelessness. The aim was to share their ideas about how young people can be better supported in relation to these issues and plan for their future. The forum was designed to be relevant to all young people regardless of their current living situation or understanding of housing and homelessness issues.

YAG member, Zac Lockhart was invited as a guest speaker at the event and shared his own personal experiences of homelessness. Zac was awarded Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year 2016 for his dedication in promoting a positive message and reducing the stigma attached to homelessness and Zac is now an ambassador for homeless youth in Tasmania.

Findings and contributions from forum participants including YAG member, Des Dusatouy have been collated and detailed in the TYF Housing and Homeless Report.



## New event to promote mental health awareness

The leading cause of death for young people in Australia is suicide. Staggeringly, eight young people (ABS 2013) aged from five through to 24, die from suicide every week. The Youth Advisory Group wanted to take action to create awareness and highlight resources available to young people within Launceston.

After careful consideration, YAG felt a multifaceted interactive event would be the most effective medium to raise awareness with young people. Partnering with Stompin Youth Dance Company, the "Creative Young Minds: Bringing Together the Arts and Mental Health" event was created and delivered in Dicky Whites Lane during October.

The event offered a range of health and well-being sessions organised by young people. Sessions included dance workshops, discussion circles, music and contemporary art which connected to the 2016 theme "Mental Health Begins with Me".

In total, over 150 young people attended the various sessions providing an accessible and engaging platform to highlight mental health.

## YAG Consult with Launceston Youth

A major goal for the Youth Advisory Group was to create awareness of the group by facilitating an event which would help to increase youth civic engagement. YAG also identified that Launceston had a lack of 'free to attend' events targeted to youth in

the city and wanted to find out the type of events young people would like to see more of.

To gain consultation, YAG designed a Youth Events Survey and explored opportunities to invite feedback. The Youth Development Officer made contact with the facilitator of Launceston College SRC group, who mentioned they were running a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) event for all local state high schools on 18 August 2016.

This was identified as an event which would enable YAG to reach the required audience and accordingly, stall space was booked. YAG members prepared the stall and talked to young people about the benefits of the committee, benefits of membership and gaining consultation on youth based events in Launceston.

As a result, over five high schools attended, YAG membership increased by 200% and 123 survey responses were received. Results from the survey found that 90% of people said yes to more underage and family friendly events in Launceston, 72% of respondents said they would most likely attend an event on the weekend, 50% of respondents said they would participate in an educational awareness event, 90% of respondents said they were more likely to attend an event with live music and 70% of respondents said they were more likely to attend an event in a central public space (such as a park or city laneway).

From these results YAG has committed to arrange events in the City Heart spaces and will use the consultation as a guide for planning.

## Leadership program a success

SEED (Student Executive Equity Development) is a pilot leadership program run by the Council's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to help foster leadership and enable the launch of Launceston Student Council projects. Up to \$500 was available from a \$1,000 budget.

This year was a huge success with the program receiving applications for the first time. The Youth Advisory Group was part of the assessment panel with support and guidance from the Grants and Sponsorship Officer, Youth Development Officer and Alderman Williams.

After averaging out responses by the committee, the following schools received funding:

### Launceston College Student Representative Council

Awarded \$400 for their Seeding Community project. A vertical communal garden with emphasis on plants and seeds from different cultural backgrounds.

### Kings Meadows High Student Council and peer support students

Awarded \$300 for the We Stand Together Wall project. A mural will be painted by students as part of national day of action against bullying and violence

### Queechy High School Engineering Team

Awarded \$300 to compete in the national final for F1 in Schools, Land Rover 4x4 in Schools and Subs in Schools competition in Melbourne.

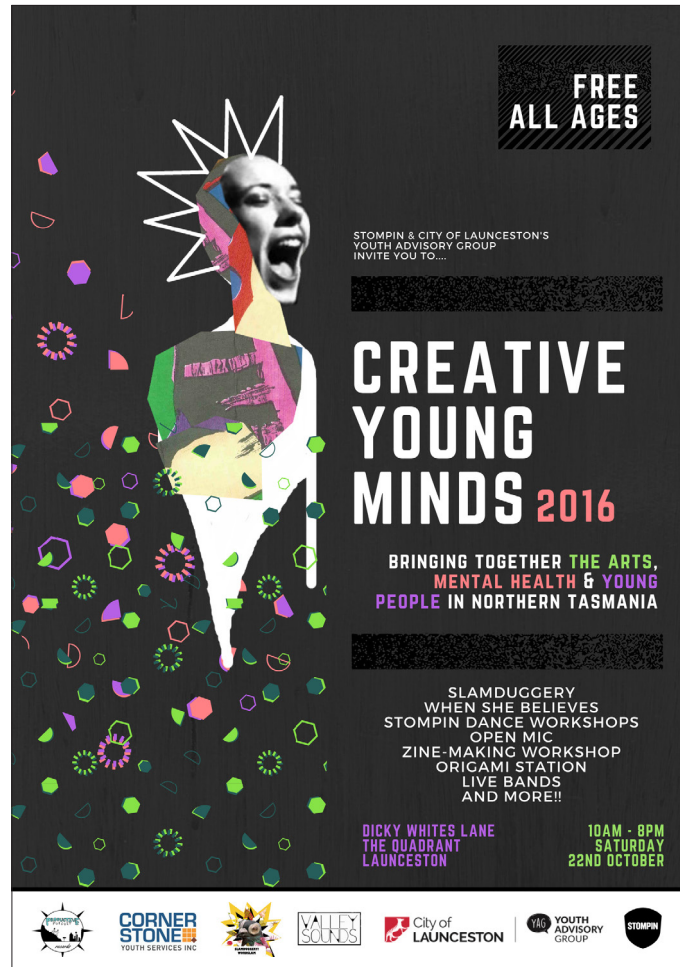
## New Student Newspaper

A new student newspaper, Momentum is published by the Examiner and Supported by City of Launceston. The newspaper is written by youth for youth and the 18 students who created the first edition came from Launceston College, Newstead College, St Patrick's College, Kings Meadow High School, Riverside High School, Prospect High School, Launceston Grammar School and the University of Tasmania.

YAG members, David Zheng and Monte Bovill were a part of the program and both contributed to a special feature on the Youth Advisory Group. The publication will continue to be updated on the examiner website at [www.examiner.com.au/youthnetwork](http://www.examiner.com.au/youthnetwork).

## Educational Workshops

YAG members participated in two educational workshops facilitated by Lawyer, Kate Mills from Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania. The workshop titled 'Real Life and the Law' focussed on party safe, alcohol, tattoos, drugs, intimate relations and youth justice. The second workshop, 'Going it Alone' encompassed issues that arise when a young person leaves home including cars (driving, buying and selling), employment matters, and renting.





## 2016 YAG members

Sarah Luate

Griffin Brooks

Alexander Fletcher

Emily Daly

Monte Bovill

Desiree Dusautoy

David Zheng

Roda Alfred

Zac Lockhart

Kyle Barrett

Phoebe Meyer

Taylor Goodier

Montana Chugg

Jessica Leeflang

Joey Crawford

Brodie Mayne

Lachlan Palmer

10 new members have joined from a range of schools including St Patricks College, Launceston Christian School, Launceston Church Grammar School, Launceston College and the Big Picture School at Inveresk.

Special mention to our long serving members Zac Lockhart, Joey Crawford, Kyle Barrett, Brodie Mayne, Des Dusatouy and Sarah Luate for their years of continuous involvement and contribution to YAG.

The Youth Advisory Group is supported by two sitting Aldermen who provide valuable advice, mentoring and guidance. YAG would like to thank Alderman Emma Williams and Alderman Simon Wood for their dedicated contribution.

## Becoming a YAG member

If you know someone who would like to be a voice for young people in the City of Launceston, please call the Youth Development Officer on 03 6323 3219.

Membership is open to Launceston residents aged between 12 and 25.

Claudia Garwood  
Youth Development Officer  
Launceston Youth Advisory Group  
T 03 6323 3219  
M 0437 173 489  
Visit [www.launceston.tas.gov.au](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au)  
for more information