



City of Launceston
Youth Advisory Group
2018 Report



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

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 the 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.

The 2018 Youth Advisory Group consisted of 17 members from 8 different schools across Launceston; University of Tasmania, Newstead Christian School, Launceston Church Grammar School, TasTAFE, Launceston College, St Patricks College, Launceston Christian School, Newstead College and Brooks High School.



Council Business

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

YAG represents in council chambers

In September 2018, the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) acted in their young leaders' capacity, hosting their own council meeting. The Youth Council meeting was arranged and facilitated to reflect a local government meeting and took place in the council chambers. The meeting was chaired by the City of Launceston Mayor, Albert Van Zetten, and the City of Launceston General Manager Michael Stretton.

With the upcoming election looming, it seemed appropriate the agenda item chosen should be discussing what's important for young people in Launceston prior to the upcoming local election.

YAG expanded their youth consultation via a #MyVoteLaunceston online survey prior to the Youth Council Meeting. YAG members shared their ideas seated around the council table, including consultation data from #MyVoteLaunceston youth survey.

The event was well received online through the live stream, media coverage, and the full public gallery

which included Aldermen and local candidates running for the election in attendance to hear young people's views on Launceston's future.

Find out more here:

https://www.facebook.com/CityOfLauncestonOfficial/videos/304970143415987_UzpfSTeWnDIyNTUyOTcwNzlwNzoxNjU4OTc2NTg3NTY1NDE5/



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 campaigns, sought feedback and created events to deliver key messages.



Youth Week Tasmania 2018

Youth Week Tasmania 2018 was well supported in Launceston with over 12 different events for young people to enjoy. YAG got involved with a number of different events across the city and worked in partnership with the following organisations:

Launceston LINC Youth Expo

Launceston Linc hosted a Youth Week Expo showcasing youth services, educational pathways, and fun demonstrations. YAG participated with their own stall at this event as a way to promote the committee to fellow young people.

Putting the Y in Youth Week

The YMCA of Launceston in partnership with councils respective youth committee's hosted a major youth event named 'Putting the Y in Youth Week' in April. The event consisted of a Youth Makers Market, live music, an indoor skate park, rock wall, BBQ, virtual games and a youth op shop and chill-out space. The event was well-attended with over 450 of Launceston's young people participating.



Beaconsfield Youth and Community Festival

During the April 2018 school holidays, a Youth and Community Festival was held in Beaconsfield. The City of Launceston arranged for a bus to transport YAG members and young people from the Northern Suburbs to and from the event. Several young people from Ravenswood travelled together with members of YAG and YMCA's young leaders group.

The West Tamar Council event had a range of fun activities targeted towards young people and families such as ninja warrior course, skate and scooter competitions, bubble soccer, devils archery, tug of war, watermelon eating competitions, and live music performed by young musicians.

It was a great atmosphere with over 500 young people enjoying themselves and having fun in greater Launceston.





Public Cultural Art Trail supported by YAG committee Alderman, Simon Wood

Committee Alderman Simon Wood launched the Royal Park Cultural Trail as part of Youth Week Tasmania.

The electrical boxes along Royal Park's seaport boardwalk had a makeover, as students from Launceston College and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association painted artworks onto the council-owned boxes. This public artwork is an extension of the Royal Park Cultural Trail, a guided walk available to students as part of QVMAG's First Tasmanians' exhibition. The art-based project was recognised through receiving the 2018 Keep Australia Beautiful Youth Leadership and Activities Award.

Launceston's Youth Advisory Committee Alderman Simon Wood said the artwork was a great addition to the landscape adding that **"the work the students have done on the electrical boxes at Royal Park is magnificent and really provides life and colour to what otherwise might be some visually dull infrastructure"**.

Find out more here: <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfLauncestonOfficial/videos/1499615856804250/>



Tasmanian Youth Forum: Health and Wellbeing

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) represented at the 2018 Tasmanian Youth Forum (TYF) discussing health and wellbeing for young people in Tasmania. This is an annual forum for young people delivered by the Youth Network of Tasmania.

The TYF Health and Wellbeing Statewide Forum was held in June 2018 at the Launceston Conference Centre. The event was free and open to any young person in Tasmania aged 12 to 25. The forum was an opportunity for young people to have their say, contribute their ideas for how the health and wellbeing of young people can be supported, and learn more about the topic and services that provide support.

A finalised report containing all results from the youth forum will be submitted to the state government to consider at the end of 2018.





SEED Student Council Funding

Student Executive Equity Development (SEED) is a leadership program run by the Council's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) to help foster leadership and enable the launch of Launceston Student Council projects through funding. Up to \$1,000 was available from a \$2,000 budget.

The YAG was part of the assessment panel with support and guidance from the Youth Development Officer and Alderman Wood to assess all applications.

After assessment by the committee, the following schools received funding in August 2018:

- \$950 awarded to **Lilydale District School** for their 7-10 Upgrade Project. The project will include building outdoor seating, comfortable spaces and 'conversation hubs' for the 7-10 students to sit during break times. The construction class at the school will assist with building. The project aim is for senior students to feel more connected to the school environment.
- \$500 was awarded to **Prospect High School** for their Old School New School Film Project. A social media video presentation that will serve as a permanent advertisement of Prospect High School. This promotional tool will assist with educating students transitioning from Primary to High school.

- \$400 was awarded to **Launceston Grammar** for Fred Hollows Foundation fundraiser Stall at Grammar Fair to raise awareness for healthy eyesight.
- \$150 was awarded to **St Patrick's College** for R U Okay Day event. Year 11 students will be running a lunchtime gathering for year 10-12 students with live music, food and conversation.

Congratulations to all schools. YAG looks forward to the final results of all four worthy projects.

Examiner Student Newspaper Program

The City of Launceston supported the Examiner student newspaper program, known as Momentum, a student publication written by youth for youth. A number of students were involved, and the Examiner team provided support and guidance throughout the project.

Each year, YAG is offered the opportunity to take part and utilise the publication to advertise for members and contribute to the content of the publication.

The publication can be found online at www.examiner.com.au/youthnetwork



Shout

Stories untold

**BULLYING,
NO WAY!**

A **YAG** PODCAST SERIES

SHOUTPODCAST.COM.AU

Anti-Bullying Campaign Shout: Stories Untold Podcast

A new podcast series aimed at capturing young people's stories on bullying was launched by the Youth Advisory Group during Mental Health Week to raise awareness about wellbeing, build resilience, foster understanding and encourage individuals to seek help when they need it most.

The group's anti-bullying campaign - SHOUT: Stories Untold - is designed to showcase stories of strength as well as sharing strategies for overcoming and coping with bullying.

The podcast series will act as a strength-based tool for young people to help their peers deal with similar situations.

The podcast campaign is the result of a Resilient Youth Australia survey sent out to 14 Launceston schools in 2017 showed that more than 65 per cent of students reported having been bullied in the past 12 months. Evidence from this survey highlighted that the most significant issues students were facing was in relation to bullying and positive identity.

Armed with this information, the Youth Advisory Group began a youth-based campaign against bullying that let young people have their say, and SHOUT: Stories Untold podcast emerged from this.

SHOUT was chosen as the name for the series because the group wanted their peers to know that it's okay to speak up when it comes to bullying.

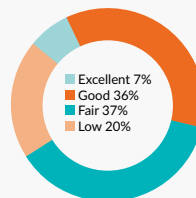
YAG is showcasing the podcast in schools, on radio and have it featured in mainstream media so that their anti-bullying message spreads not only to their peers but to the wider community.

The podcasts can be accessed by visiting www.shoutpodcast.com.au.



Launceston Resilient Youth Snapshot 2018

Overall resilience levels Grade 3 to 10



What is the Resilience Survey?

The Resilience Survey is an evidenced based online survey which collects, collates and analyses the self-reported strengths in young people.

The data when analysed provides an opportunity for planning programs and events to improve student's connectivity to their school and community.

In 2017, the City of Launceston partnered with Resilient Youth Australia to survey over 2,000 Launceston based students in grades 3 to 10.

2,151 responses from 14 schools in Launceston and Greater Launceston area

Resilience according to gender

50% females Good/Excellent levels of resilience
36% males Good/Excellent levels of resilience

88%

say that parents help them to succeed



88%

think it's important to help other people



88%

value diversity



85%

feel safe and secure at home



81%

are engaged in their learning and are eager to achieve at school



80%

feel that teachers encourage them to achieve



65%

reported being bullied in the last 12 months



34%

do not eat breakfast at home every day during an average school week



38%

do not feel good about themselves



38%

are not getting 8 hours sleep



40%

do not feel that they are developing a sense of purpose in life



39%

do not feel in control of their lives



City of LAUNCESTON

Resilient Youth

To find out more, visit www.resilientyouth.org.au

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Celebrating our committee

Recognition of the Youth Advisory Group has been highlighted through award nominations.

Volunteer Award Nomination

The City of Launceston Volunteer Awards aims to recognise individuals and organisations for their dedication to the Launceston community.

YAG members received nominations for the City of Launceston Volunteer Awards for averaging 200 hours of voluntary service over the course of 2017. The Council expressed their thanks and were appreciative of the dedicated YAG volunteers work to ensure the Council has an informed youth perspective on youth services, issues, and initiatives provided to the Council.

YAG is set to receive nominations for their work in 2018 having completed over 200 hours of volunteer work initiating youth based campaigns, projects, activities and events at the City of Launceston.

Thanks

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is supported by three sitting Aldermen who provide valuable advice, mentoring and guidance. YAG would like to thank Alderman Simon Wood, Alderman Emma Williams and Alderman Karina Stojansek for their dedicated contribution for 2018.

2018 YAG members

Abbie Trequurtha

Alexander Fletcher

Amy Baillie

Des Dusautoy

Gabrielle Dewsbury

George Morris

Isabella Wise

Josiah Kenzie

Kyle Dwight Cos

Lauretta Kilby

Malachi Capela

Meg Leyden

Nathaniel Wise

Sarah Luate

Sasha Massey

Sophie Campbell

William Agers



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Get involved!

YAG is a special committee of City of Launceston council for young people aged 12-25 years.

Meetings are held at Town Hall every fortnight from 4-5pm during school terms.

You will:

Meet like-minded people who want to make a difference.

Get an introduction to local government and direct contact with council Aldermen.

Help to create campaigns, projects, activities and events!

Interested?

Contact us for more information.

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