

# **Byron Youth Service**



## **Annual Report 2011**



**[www.bys.org.au](http://www.bys.org.au)**



*Thank you*  
to each and every single one of  
our sponsors, supporters,  
donors and volunteers.  
Too many to name in 2011.  
*We are blessed!*

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# Chairperson's

Richard Heazlewood-Ross

## *Report*

2011 has seen extraordinarily constructive and innovative achievements for Byron Youth Service. Director Di Mahoney's inspirational leadership of the committed experienced team of youth workers culminated in over \$700,000 of grant funding and community donations which have been channelled creatively and effectively to support Byron Shire youth. The recent YAPA report "Youth Work Snapshot 2011" indicated that 65% of youth services in NSW receive \$250,000 funding or less, so BYS has successfully attracted a significant share of resources for our community.

The long planned commercial kitchen, a \$75,000 investment, is now operating, positioning BYS as a force to deliver community education & foster enterprise. The \$55,000 purchase and operation of the 12-seater bus has increased the effectiveness of the successful Street Cruise program and is creating opportunities for many innovative uses. Project U-Turn & Turning the Tide have had a hugely positive impact, with a 38% reduction on alcohol related crime in the 25 and under age group and there are many other projects you will read about in this report, which continue to support and advocate for the diversity of our local youth.

In its first year of management, BYS was a semi-finalist as Corporate Managers in the NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards, testimony to the quality operation of this important community facility. However the Youth Service is not resting on its laurels, rather it has undertaken an extensive community consultation process to develop a 10 year Strategic Plan. This planning aims to see BYS prepare wisely for the inevitable changes and challenges ahead, while keeping a clear eye on the needs of our local youth.

At the initial planning meeting, I asked one of the workers what she loved about being a part of the BYS team. "This is a group of people with integrity. Everything we do is based on what is the best for our young people". This is simply what makes BYS such a gift to this community.

I would like to thank the BYS team, the many wonderful volunteers and our community supporters for making 2011 an outstanding year of achievement.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Di Mahoney

Again this year BYS staff hit the ground running and worked hard all year to deliver some great programs, support services & activities interacting with approximately 6200 young people in our community.

The purchase of our new 12-seater bus as part of the implementation of our Mobile Youth Outreach Service "Turning the Tide on Local Youth Crime" has seen us engaging with many more young people in all areas of the Shire, especially in Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores.

During 2011 Project U-Turn has engaged with hundreds of high school students and young people through activities such as educational workshops, blow zero comps, poster campaigns and youth events to change the culture of binge drinking among young people. We also teamed up with some awesome volunteers to run our Blues-Fest & schoolies activities, raising awareness about binge drinking in our community.

We recently completed the construction of a new commercial kitchen at the YAC, and have delivered a fantastic hospitality program for young people in partnership with Wollongbar TAFE with funding through apprenticeships & traineeships. In time we hope the kitchen will provide numerous other opportunities for young people in enterprise, training, catering & events.

Implementation of the new DoCS service has seen the upgrading of office spaces & facilities at both the YAC and Mullumbimby Cottage and some new data management systems implemented. Our staff have participated in some engaging professional development this year and their skills in supporting vulnerable young people are highly professional and caring.

At the Cottage in Mullumbimby we teamed with local partnership brokers Connect to construct and install some outdoor furniture, and BYS upgraded computers & chairs for use by young people. Students

from Mullumbimby High School that are involved in our programs have been very productive too – creating websites and mosaics. It's been another busy year at the Cottage - read on for more details!

This year we commenced a 10-year strategic planning process that will help us to visualise a rich and exciting future for young people in our community, as well as providing a practical means of monitoring and implementing our shared priorities. Thanks to all community members who've been involved in some way. Our plan will be finalized and promoted early in 2012.

It takes a team of committed people to do all the things we do each year, and this year has been a really busy one indeed. I would like to sincerely thank our Committee of Management, our amazing staff and volunteers – and every single person or small business that has been involved in BYS in some way – big or small – during 2011.

I would also like to acknowledge our key partners and funding bodies for their support over the past twelve months.

Federal Government Departments: Health & Ageing, DEEWR, FAHCSIA

State Government Departments: Community Services, Education & Training, The Land & Property Management Authority & the Dept of Premier & Cabinet

Byron Shire Council – provision of the Mullumbimby Cottage, subsidy of rates, water & sewerage charges at the Cottage and the Byron YAC, two tonnes of waste disposal at Myocum Landfill  
Education Partners: NORTEC Youth Services, Byron Bay High School, Mullumbimby High School, Southern Cross Distance Education Unit & North Coast Institute of TAFE – Ballina & Wollongbar

The community service organisations and workers who we work with together to support young people in our community.

# 2011 at the YAC!

BYS were appointed corporate managers of the Byron Youth Activity Centre Crown Reserve Trust in 2009 and everyday we work to maintain and improve this wonderful community asset.

## **YAC Garden**

James Nash designed a plan for the YAC garden. Mark Thompson and his Newtrain Green Corps did some major work over the year in our beautiful garden. Sculptures by international sculptor Usama El Nassar were donated and installed, vegetable gardens established and food grown used for our lunchtime program, native and fruit trees planted all around. Shane Ward mows our extensive lawns on a regular basis for free! Food and plants were donated from various local businesses. Heidi Tidmarsh and John Coventry also pitched in an awesome beautification program in our gardens with many new plants adorning the gardens. The Permaculture Blitz crew will be continuing the program with a worm farm and other projects.

## **YAC Venue Hire**

We have had quite a few community events held at the Youth Activity Centre this year, including Mordechai, Let me down, Jungleman, sculpture classes and exhibition, Boxation Classes, 9 Byron Bay Hardcore shows, a Hip Hop Fundraiser for the Qld floods, Earth Hour Event, Barrajara Surf Program, Back to Country, Capoeira classes, Skate workshops, Africa Day, Red Chair, Salsa Workshop, 'stART me up' Surf Festival, and regular Uncle activities.

## **Friday Nights @ the YAC**

This year on average up to 20 young people regularly popped in on a Friday night to enjoy music, gaming, artworks, outdoor fun and winter warm-ups at the YAC. Friday Nights @ the YAC are run in partnership with BUDDI – The Byron Community Drug Action Team with funding from NSW Health and our enterprise program contributing to positive outcomes and youth-led initiatives by and for young people.

## **Lunchtime Program @ the YAC**

A group of volunteers come to the Centre for a couple of hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and cook a beautiful, healthy meal for staff and students attending courses.

Bangalow and Byron farmer's markets donate vegetables, Byron Gourmet Pies donated pies regularly, Brumby's donated bread and Woolworths also gave us a food voucher of \$50. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers. We feed on average 15 to 25 people each day.

## **Coffee courses**

Once a month we run a 4 hour Barista course facilitated by a qualified Barista who teaches young students aged between 15 – 24 coffee making skills, grinding the coffee, adjusting the grind, producing a great espresso with thick crema, frothing the milk for cappuccinos, cleaning and maintaining the machine and the grinder.

Students obtain a Barista certificate, which assists them in finding work in our Shire that is full of cafes needing good Baristas. Thanks to Byron Bay Coffee Company for their generous donation of coffee. We had 50 students participating in this course this year.

## **New YAC Kitchen!**

The major upgrade at the YAC this year was the construction of our brand new commercial kitchen. Thanks to a grant through Community Building Partnerships NSW, significant support from the Lions Club and Byron Malibu Club, and fundraising conducted by our own "Friends of BYS" we have installed a high standard eco-kitchen that will provide training and enterprise activities for young people in our community for many years to come.



# Mullumbimby *Cottage*

The Mullumbimby Cottage has up to 40 y/p per week attending groups, activities and individual support sessions, and is managed by youth worker Deb Pearse. Individual case management also takes place at the school on Wednesdays and assists students to remain engaged and looks at attendance and behavioural issues in liaison with Head Welfare. This year has seen a 100% success rate in assisting y/p to remain at school.

27 young people have been registered through the Youth Connections program and 48 supported through Communities NSW EIPP program. Issues that are regularly addressed include family and peer conflict, binge drinking, substance use/abuse, sexual health, boundaries, training and career choices, healthy relationships, homelessness, financial difficulties etc.

Group activities are skills based and aim to promote healthy self-esteem, group-work, negotiation, respect for others and a process leading to a realistic and achievable outcome. Some of the activities this year are listed below.

Programs at the Cottage have been made immeasurably better with Jemma co-facilitating girls groups. Both Year 9 and Year 10 girls have built online websites and in that process have learnt how to be inclusive and work together, research information, take and edit photos, use computer programs such as Photoshop, iWeb and Microsoft Word, manage files and photos and provide a useful online resource for their peers.

Check out their creations at:

[www.reflections.org.au](http://www.reflections.org.au)

[www.runningwild.org.au](http://www.runningwild.org.au)

Year 9 and Year 10 boys have focused on fitness training and have tried a number of different forms including Qi Gong, Capoeira and Boxation before deciding on training with Joe Robinson. These groups also focus on discussions relating to bullying, aggression and truanting and aim to

improve behaviour in these areas. During the first half of the year the Year 9 boys worked with Jesse Penhaligon in a music and video editing program using garage band and 'rhymes' with the aim of expressing and releasing emotions.

Year 9 girls are currently working on a large mosaic to be attached to the Cottage wall. They have decided on a design and the words 'The Pursuit of Happiness'. It is a structured project and the girls work in groups on different elements with the smashing of ceramic and glass items proving to be a great anger management technique!

Both girls groups did several sessions with Bridget and Jemma and learnt how to tie-dye, much fun was had and many 'new' items were added to wardrobes.

Deb Pearse nominated and had the great joy and pride of seeing Emily Finberg receive the 'Most inspiring Young Person' award in the Echo Awards.

Achievement of outcomes is usually rewarded by an outing and so far this year outings have been to Currumbin Sanctuary, picnics, movies and lunch and the Young Women's Health Conference held in Bangalow. A group of Mullumbimby High students built and donated two picnic tables for the backyard and Byron Council has done work on the Cottage, which we appreciate greatly.

**The Widow's Cottage** 34 Gordon Street Mullumbimby NSW 2482  
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# Youth

# ENTERPRISE

Our youth enterprise program seeks to create a culture of initiative and enterprise amongst young people living in the Byron Shire. Funded by FAHCSIA, we integrate enterprise elements into all of our youth programs as well as delivering the following key activities:

## **SNAP! 2011 Youth Photography Exhibition**

This year's SNAP! Photographic Competition attracted 34 creative young people from all walks of life in the Northern Rivers Region. This year's theme was "Daydreams & Nightmares", and each entrant could enter 3 photos in either black & white or colour with 4 age groups 12 -14, 15-17, 18-20 & 21-24. Each section was sponsored by local businesses and winners were announced on the night of the exhibition, when photos were being sold as part of the youth enterprise program. SNAP enables young creative photographers to sell and/or promote their photos to a wide audience.

## **Trailblazers**

This year saw a small but happy crew of young women making progress in their fashion and tourism adventures. Under the guidance of BYS volunteer turned amazing business tutor Prue Blennerhassett, 4 different small business ideas were developed and embellished with connections, mentoring and information on small business basics.

## **Rock the YAC Productions**

A fantastic event was put on by young people for the community and resulted in Rock the YAC productions enterprising event "Vibadelix" collecting almost \$3000 at the door! What a great result for the young events crew involved in putting together the Vibadelix event – complete with their homegrown merchandise and CD sales. A hands-on real-life way of learning about being a music promoter and getting enterprising.

## **Creative Arts Collective**

In September of 2011 a group of young artists came together to form the Creative Arts Collective. They meet @ the YAC each week and create wares to sell at local markets. Within the group of young people and mentors, a variety of skills and ideas are shared casually and through small workshops, such

as screen-printing, leather work and bone carving. They went to the Byron Artisan Markets and the Byron Creative Business Incubator Christmas Market and had a fabulous time. They sold jewellery, clothes, tie-dyed and printed bags, baby clothes and beanies, even managing to pocket a small profit. The young entrepreneurs learnt from the whole process as well as from their mentors and each other.

### **Youth in Multimedia**

Young people from Mullumbimby High School and some post-school youth, have developed their skills in multimedia & IT throughout 2011 through the development of two websites and a range of music and video editing projects. Having a good grasp on multimedia skills and platforms enables young people to explore a range of emerging enterprise opportunities provided through blogging, online sales, and their own production possibilities via youtube and other avenues.

# **Suffolk Park**

## **PROJECT**

‘Suffolk Park Saturdays’ has been a fun and successful project engaging young people in the Suffolk Park area with regular outdoor activities. Funded by a generous local sponsor, and now in its second year, events have included - Wet n Wild, Skate and Paint “Grom Comp”, Awesome Art, Summer Hits Suffo and Suffolk Park Skate Comp. It is great for young people to meet the Byron Youth Service workers at an event like this and then they are more confident to access our other programs. We have also had support from The Lions Club, Council, The Men’s Group, Project U Turn, Pharside Skate Shop, Fallen and Skull Candy. Local Business such as Baz n Shaz, the Supa IGA and the Fish n Chip Shop have let us promote each event in their windows.





# PROJECT U TURN

Project U Turn is funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Health and Ageing through the National Binge Drinking Initiative.

We have had a very busy year continuing to raise awareness about the issue of youth binge drinking in the Byron Shire. We are actively working with the local community, young people, parents, community drug action groups, teachers, the NSW Fire Brigade, the police, drug and alcohol counsellors and youth workers both in local high schools, at festivals, and out in the community in general to raise awareness about this critical issue.

Our continuing goal is to engage, connect with, involve and educate young people and their families about the harms associated with binge drinking both long and short term. We do this in the following ways;

## **Supporting activities for safe socialising for young people**

- o Local Skate Competitions
- o Community Art Projects
- o Flash Mobs
- o Turn the Tide Mobile Youth Outreach Service– Friday & Sat Nights
- o Friday Nights at the YAC
- o Blow Zero Competitions/Education at ‘Schoolies’
- o Breathalyser/Education at ‘Bluesfest’

## **Media**

- o ‘U’ Turn Symbol Poster Campaign
- o 30sec Cinema Commercial
- o Web presence and Social Networking – Facebook, Website
- o School Newsletter broadcasts
- o BYS Monthly Newsletter & Project U Turn quarterly Newsletter

## **Education**

- o School Workshops for Year 7,9,10
- o Byron Youth Theatre in Education (BYTE)
- o Parent Information Evenings
- o Presentation at Young Women’s Health Conference
- o Student Focus Groups and Student Forum
- o Information Booths at Schools for Mental Health Week
- o Information Booths at ‘Forever Young’

## **Resources**

- o Safe Party Booklets
- o The Brain Mascot

All of this great work could not have been achieved without the amazing support and commitment of co-workers and volunteers. Thank you all so much!

# BYTE

## Byron Youth Theatre in Education

Byron Youth Theatre in Education engages a group of young people from the local community in researching, writing, devising, producing and performing educational shows and workshops primarily targeting the issue of binge drinking.

The BYTE group had a great start to the year with workshops in playback theatre techniques through the Byron Community College Summer School and a specific Process Drama session on one aspect of binge drinking presented by local University lecturer Gaby Le Brun. Both workshops extended the groups skills and gave the group some useful material to use in performance. Each member of the BYTE group conducted research on the numerous aspects of binge drinking including the effect of alcohol on brain development, local controversy over new drinking establishments and alcohol related incidents to interviewing community members and parents who have teenagers.

By meeting regularly to receive training in group devising methods and performance techniques, the members established a strong and respectful working foundation.

The piece that emerged from this process was titled "Angie's Story", a powerful stylized drama depicting what can go wrong at an ill supervised party, which had been posted on facebook, involving underage drinking. The play was performed in local schools to over 500 audience members of students, parents and teachers. It was extremely well received and evaluation forms requesting "MORE please!!"

At BluesFest, the Project U-Turn Brain made it's inaugural appearance 'manned' by different members of the company each day assisted by Lisa Apostolides. The brightly coloured and entertaining duo chatted to festival goers and performers alike on all issues of binge drinking, bringing awareness to many people young and old.

The new company is currently in a research and development phase to create a new piece to take to schools and the community next year.

Thanks to Company Members for 2011 - Juanita, Tallulah, Meg, Roberto, Fletcher, Audrey, Rachel, Zia, Lolomi, Lily, Ebony, Phoebe & Hayley.

# LINKS TO LEARNING



2011 Links 2 Learning program, 'Young People Matter', has witnessed another creative year supporting the diverse education, employment & personal wellbeing pathways of 43 participants! Our community partnerships have grown in 2011, further extending our capacity to facilitate locally delivered accredited education @ Byron YAC, complementing the diverse needs & aspirations of Links 2 Learning Family Tree, whose branches of learners are enrolled in BCC Flexi School &/or our vocational courses: Event Management, Fashion Design & Hospitality. Once again, all participants were encouraged to embrace our weekly: Mind, Body & Soul, 'Yoway' Program. \* Yoway: a Bundjalung word meaning YES!

## **Vocational Education Courses:**

### **Event Management:**

An eclectic team of 7 talented individuals formed 2011 Rock the YAC Productions crew & followed in the footsteps of their 2010 predecessors to conceptualise & manage this year's production extravaganza... 'Vibadelix: Beats & Roots in the Bay Festival'. Course tutor & industry professional, Morgyn Quinn (Rudekat Records) immersed participants into the dynamic, albeit high pressure world of event management to develop skills in artistic programming; operations; decor; marketing & promotion including production of DIY merchandise (T-Shirts & CDs). Further fine-tuning of production skills were facilitated by Industry Mentors: Katie Watts (Byron Bay Blues & Roots Festival); KitnKaboodle Productions & Libby Kilby (Woodford Folk Festival). Vibadelix, was an outstanding all ages, drug & alcohol free community event featuring: 13 live acts; market stalls, eco sustainable initiatives, generous sponsorship, eager volunteers & 200+ punters! Our 2011 event crew became the first Links2Learning cohort to attain an accredited certificate, thanks to our innovative collaboration with Ballina TAFE, enabling 4 participants to acquire a Certificate II Skills & Workplace Training qualification that formally recognised workplace skills acquired during the industry-based course. Lastly, to their immense credit, 2 participants worked @ Splendour in the Grass & have since relocated to Sydney & Melbourne to pursue production careers, whilst another 2 participants

were offered team leader roles @ 2012 Blues Festival. Rock the YAC Productions 'Thanks' it's major 2011 Sponsors: Indent Music NSW; Project U-Turn; Captured Byron Bay; SAE; Island Vibe Festival; Eden Garden Centre & Mullumbimby Creek Nursery.

### **Stitch N Style: Fashion Design Course:**

For the 2nd consecutive year, in partnership with Wollongbar TAFE Fashion Department, our Links 'Fashionistas' were provided the opportunity to attain a Certificate II Applied Fashion Design qualification delivered locally @ Byron YAC. In just 10 weeks, TAFE tutors: Danielle Greenslade & Cheryl Amor immersed our participants into the world of Fashion drawing, design, pattern making & garment construction ~ encouraging & extending their technical & design competencies. Mentor, Anne Leon facilitated screen-printing workshops @ her Byron Design Studio. The confidence & technical prowess of all participants culminated in a photo shoot of their design collection @ Byron Lighthouse. 6 participants, ranging in age from 15-21yr were awarded their Certificate II qualification, 3 of whom have applied to enrol in the Certificate IV Fashion Design course @ Wollongbar TAFE in 2012.

### **Hospitality Course:**

With the addition of a commercial training kitchen @ Byron YAC an innovative collaborative fusion between State Training Services; Wollongbar TAFE & BYS Links 2 Learning, added a spicy education & employment partnership to the menu for the young people of Byron Shire! Whilst the Byron YAC kitchen was constructed, our dedicated Hospo Dynamos were transported by the BYS bus to Wollongbar TAFE, 3 days/wk over a 6 week period, clocking up 8-9hr days! Integration of bus transportation continued once the course delivery commenced locally, given it's positive impact upon group dynamics, engagement & attendance. This year's Certificate II Hospitality course was rich with industry standards & hands-on experience enabling participants to acquire silver service skill attainment! Special thanks to the following community partners who hosted a work experience placement: Fishheads Byron Bay; The Happy Dolphin Cafe; Billinudgel Hotel; Opes of Lennox Head & Mary Ryan's Byron Bay. All 8 participants gastronomical achievements included the successful completion of the 9 Certificate II

Hospitality modules delivered during the 12 week course. In addition, casual employment was offered to 3 young people, whilst another is pursuing an apprenticeship opportunity.

## **BCC Flexi School:**

Many ebbs & flows have transpired in 2011, as some have outgrown our Flexi crew family to explore new landscapes. Several Yr 11 students have transitioned into further education including: Fashion Design; Child Care; Land Conservation & Horticulture & Hair/Beauty. Bridget Perry, our much loved Youth Worker, left our Links/BCC team, to pursue her artistic expression & nurture new colourful life canvasses! Heartfelt Thanks to Bridget for her inspiring contribution & generosity.

Gold Stars of Achievement to the following young people:

Max for completing his School Certificate exams

Hanuman: for completing 9 Cert II Hospitality modules

Chloe: for completing Cert II Fashion Design; 9 Hospitality Cert II modules & a Cert II Skills & Workplace Training Certificate (SWAT)

Sara: completing Yr 11 Preliminary Studies; 9 Hospitality Cert II modules & Cert II SWAT

Katelyn: completing Yr 11 Preliminary Studies, & pursuing HSC in 2012

BCC Flexi School is an innovative community education model whose ongoing success is nurtured collaboratively by BYS & a collective of dedicated education partners including: Southern Cross Distance Education; Byron Bay HS; Mullumbimby HS; Ballina TAFE & the Student Services District Office. Immense Gratitude to our 'grassroots' and caring co-workers who provide daily individual needs-based learning support: Steve Halstead; Angela Carroll; Noel Francis & Odette Brown.

## **Mind, Body & Soul, 'Yoway' Program**

In 2011 young people continued to participate in a range of wellness experiences including: boxation, yoga, ayurvedic nutrition workshops & individual consultations.

Excursions have included a trip to Brisbane to attend the Dalai Lama Youth Forum; Lismore Op Shop/Budgeting; Recycle Centre. Interagency workshops & Guest Mentors have included topics such as Hep C, substance use, mental health, sexual health women's health, Industry Mentors have shared their wisdom on a range of topics including marketing & publicity (events) & art therapy learning & work skills: information literacy notetaking & research skills; resume & interview skills; brain development & memory skills; photo language and snr first aid.

# SUPPORTING

## *vulnerable young people in our community*

Byron Youth Service is a contracted provider of both Youth Connections (YC) & the Early Intervention & Placement Prevention (EIPP) Programs.

**Youth Connections** (YC) fosters a positive future for our community through the empowerment of 'at-risk' youth aged 11-19. The YC program works with Byron and Mullumbimby high schools, other organizations, families & individuals to identify young people who may be experiencing barriers to successful learning outcomes. YC then supports those young people to remain engaged in education or secure employment opportunities. YC supports clients to build personal resilience & address barriers in their life and is delivered at both the Byron YAC and the Cottage in Mullumbimby.

In 2011 62 young people have been supported both with individual case management and group work.

BYS works with a range of other organizations to support young people including:

Reconnect (Youth Homelessness & Early Intervention); Byron Youth House (Youth homelessness); On Track Community Programs (Accommodation Project); Intra Youth Service (Outreach A&OD service); North Coast Area Health Service (Adolescent Mental Health Services); Centrelink (Social Workers, Community Engagement Officers, financial support services); NSW Department Home School Liaison Officers); BYS Links 2 Learning (Vocational Education & Training, life skills support); NSW TAFE (training); National Green Jobs Corps (training); EnviTe (green training); Job Network Providers & many others.

Youth Connections is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) & has been delivered in partnership with NORTEC.

### **EIPP**

In July 2011 BYS began implementation of the new Communities NSW program Early Intervention and Placement Prevention (EIPP). BYS has

already supported over 100 young people that are in need of support, referral, information and case management to address important issues in their lives. As part of the new program BYS youth workers provide both individual and group support.

### **Byron Young Mum's Group**

As part of the EIPP program, BYS runs the Byron Young Mum's Group as a social group that offers a safe space for Young Mums and their families to meet, relax, play, share ideas & develop parenting skills. During 2011 Young Mums met every Tuesday morning (during the summer/spring at the YAC & during the winter at the Byron Scout Hall).

22 Young Mums, 3 Young Dads, 6 Aunties & 1 Grandmother participated in the program along with 19 bubs aged 0-5. Weekly activities included play-based learning & a healthy morning tea; favourites with the bubbas being the lady finger bananas, the Scout Hall swings, the YAC water fountain & rolling down the YAC amphitheatre.

In October, Young Mum's teamed up with the Mullumbimby 'Parent Team' to bring 'Toddler Tunes' to the Byron Young Mums - with Michelle Walker (an early childhood specialist & Lactation consultant) organising story telling, music & themed play for the toddlers!!!

In addition to real time group activities, Byron Young Mum's Group maintained a facebook site for young Mums in 2011 (<http://www.facebook.com/youngmums>) with 100 young Mum friends.



# ON THE STREETS MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES

## **Street Cruise & Turning the Tide**

On April 1st 2011 thanks to a grant obtained through the Attorney General Department's Proceeds of Crime Act, BYS has had the opportunity to spread its wings... or wheels!!

Securing this grant has enabled BYS to purchase a brand "spanking" new twelve seater Toyota mini bus, which has made it possible to deliver a more mobile youth outreach service, staffed with two youth workers driving around the Byron Shire every weekend. This builds on many years experience in running Street Cruise in Byron Bay, and extends our capacity to service the north of the shire where services are more limited.

The main objective of "Turning the Tide" has been to establish and foster positive relationships with young people in our community on Friday and Saturday nights, empowering them with information around the dangers associated with drinking, drug-use, violence, anti-social behaviour and the likely resultant criminal penalties. On average our workers interact with more than 600 young people each month.

With this in mind we would like to thank our generous sponsors First National Real Estate, and Andrew Hall Chiropractics for their donations and Earth 'n Sea Pizza, Byron Captured Water, Suffolk Park Bakery and Eagle Boys for their continuing supply of food and water for on board the bus. Being able to provide the basic things such as food, water and a familiar friendly face have gained us legendary status amongst the local young crew!

In addition to this the Turning the Tide project conducted a very successful six-week cannabis education program in collaboration with NSW Health involving students from Byron and Mullumbimby High. The program delivers a high focus on building strong pre-emptive strategies around the topic of cannabis and its consequences to young people, their families, their health and also the criminal implications associated with use and possession.

Finally, thank you to everyone in the community for their kind words and encouragement with the new program during 2011. We really feel that this program is providing an essential service to the young people in the Byron Shire and we hope to build more great partnerships to ensure the longevity of this service.

# Volunteers & Fundraising

## **Friends of BYS**

In 2011 we had a lot of help from community volunteers for various projects and fundraising efforts. We can't do all the things we do without your support! So please accept a heartfelt thanks from all of us at BYS.

In April we had a team of 12 volunteers at Bluesfest where we ran 2 breathalyzer stalls for patrons by donation and charged mobile phones for a small fee. We also sold iPhone solar powered chargers. During the year we have volunteers help out weekly with the Byron Farmer's Market, and at the YAC as volunteer cooks – a very important role that helps us to keep young people healthy and happy in our programs.

Now that the YAC is a Crown Reserve Trust council don't mow our lawns anymore - but a big thanks to Shane Ward who has generously helped us out by mowing the amphitheatre and surrounds at the YAC on a regular basis! Cher & Tegan and their partners helped paint some offices at the YAC too. And a visiting crew of young men from YWAM helped us clean out the shipping container – cheers!

In October – the new Byron Surf Festival nominated us as one of the beneficiaries for their raffle – so volunteers helped sell raffle tickets over the weekend. Nicole, Faerellen & Marty have completed student placements with BYS as part of their Community Service training. We also had several young people Grace and Dylan doing volunteer work at the YAC.

Of course the Byron Malibu Club and the Byron Lions Club have helped us to fund the construction of our new commercial kitchen, and we are very honored that they want to support our efforts to help young people.

In June we held a Volunteer's Soiree at the Owl @ the Pussycat to thank everyone for their awesome work and 28 volunteers attended!

# 2010/11 Financial Result

Please find below a brief summary of our audit for financial year ended June 30th 2011. For a full copy, please contact BYS.

## Profit & Loss

| <b>Byron Youth Service Inc</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Income                         | 508,443     | 700,394     |
| Operating Expenses             | 530,965     | 648,943     |
| Profit/ (Loss) at June 30 2011 | 82,184      | 60,821      |

Please note that BYS is a not-for-profit organization and any "profit" at June 30th 2011 is likely to be committed to youth projects.



## Balance Sheet at 30th June 2011

| <b>Byron Youth Service Inc</b> | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Assets                   | 349,010     | 498,661     |
| Total Liabilities              | 45,052      | 143,964     |
| Total Equity                   | 303,968     | 354,697     |

# Staff *and* Committee

## Committee of Management

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Richard Heazlewood-Ross | Chairperson                  |
| Maxine Caron            | Deputy Chair/ Public Officer |
| Ian Leggo               | Treasurer                    |
| Rob Eldridge            | Secretary                    |
| Brenda St Claire        | Member                       |
| Karim Kauffman          | Member                       |
| Phil Preston            | Member                       |
| Nicqui Yazdi            | BUDDI Representative         |
| Melissa Honey           | Staff Representative         |

## BYS Staff Members

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Di Mahoney     | Director                                       |
| Rosalie Bryant | Senior Youth Worker Byron Bay                  |
| Deb Pearce     | Senior Youth Worker Mullumbimby /Street Cruise |
| Melissa Honey  | Links to Learning Co-ordinator                 |
| Stephanie Sims | Events and Fundraising                         |
| Kate Reed      | Project U Turn Co-ordinator                    |
| Lisa Fensom    | Turn the Tide Co-ordinator                     |
| Tegan Rowles   | Youth Worker                                   |
| Bridget Perry  | Youth Worker                                   |

**Casual Youth Workers:** Jemma Brunell, David Dalton, Luke Evans, Rachel Herford, Joey Wallace, Paul Tischler (BUDDI)

## YAC Co-workers

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Steve Halstead   | BCC Teacher       |
| Angela Carroll   | BCC Teacher       |
| Noel Francis     | BCC Teacher       |
| Odette Brown     | Ballina TAFE      |
| Chad Kolcze      | Uncle Project     |
| Nicqui Yazdi     | BUDDI Team Leader |
| Lisa Apostolides | BYTE Director     |

BYS Operates from two locations in the Byron Shire:

**Byron Youth Activities Centre (YAC)** 1 Gilmore Crescent Byron Bay NSW 2481  
Ph: 6685 7777 Fax: 6685 8871 Email: [info@bys.org.au](mailto:info@bys.org.au) Web: [www.bys.org.au](http://www.bys.org.au)

**The Widow's Cottage** 34 Gordon Street Mullumbimby NSW 2482  
Ph: 6684 3086 Email: [dpearce@bys.org.au](mailto:dpearce@bys.org.au) Web: [www.bys.org.au](http://www.bys.org.au)

