

Byron Youth Service



Annual Report 2013



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Thank you

*to each and every single one of our sponsors,
supporters, donors and volunteers.*

Too many to name in 2013.

We are blessed!



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Chairperson's

Report

By Richard Heazlewood-Ross

In 2013, Byron Youth Service (BYS) workers continued their clear focus to support young people to be SAFE, VALUED and HAPPY. This vision is integral to the many successful complex programs and initiatives that occurred throughout the year, detailed in this annual report. I congratulate Di Mahoney and the experienced and dedicated team she leads for their continued achievements and advocacy for our Byron Shire youth. Our workers dedicate themselves to supporting young people in our community, and do a great job at it.

Following incidents occurring on 2012 New Year's Eve, the Byron community has engaged in a broad conversation about how to address the harmful aspects of alcohol related behaviour. BYS has been at the forefront of this conversation advocating for the safety of young people. The highly praised work of Street Cruise, the school based mentoring, youth connections and support programs, events program and the campaign to minimise binge drinking reflect the BYS vision to keep young people safe. BYS has emerged as a credible voice in both the local and broader community, evidenced by Di Mahoney and Deb Pearse addressing the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into strategies to reduce alcohol abuse among young people. As well, BYS gained FARE grants to develop community resources, attended several Drug and Alcohol Conferences, and Di was a guest on a Channel 9 Forum tackling youth binge drinking. Most recently, our innovative Cringe the Binge posters won a National Marketing award, a terrific achievement.

The community sector faces many funding challenges, given that grants are often short term and increasingly difficult to attain. To that end, the Committee of Management has undertaken a major review of financial matters, resulting in the appointment of a new bookkeeper, Jon Edwards and Hume Collins as Auditor. Their commitment and expertise has enabled BYS to implement policies and practices which improve our knowledge to plan for, and deliver a sustainable future in social enterprise for the young people in Byron shire.

On behalf of BYS, I would like to pay tribute to Maxine Caron, who recently retired after nearly 15 years as a valued, hard working member of the management team. She will be missed and we wish her all the best for the future. I would also like to thank colleagues Ian Leggo, our treasurer and secretary Rob Eldridge who are long term members continuing to serve on the committee. Phil Preston, Mark Smith, Nicqui Yazdi, Caston Smith and Stephanie Sims (staff rep) make up the team who volunteer their time to provide wonderful management support for BYS.

BYS is a significant community organisation, however it would not be able to function effectively without the generous spirit of our volunteers and community supporters. Thank you all, as you help us demonstrate that YOUNG PEOPLE MATTER.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Di Mahoney

Well what a year 2013 has been for all of us at BYS.

It started with a bit of a bang as we changed bookkeepers and auditors after many years and did a bit of serious housekeeping. We are confidently on solid footing and ready to tackle the ongoing challenges of being a small but very busy community sector organization in a constantly changing operating environment.

As soon as the school years starts, our youth workers are usually busy supporting young people transitioning back into school or making decisions about their future. Our crew are passionate, hard-working and skilled in assisting young people to both remain engaged in their schooling, or gather information to make decisions about their future, and any possible transition to further learning in programs like Links to Learning, other offerings through TAFE & local RTO's etc or getting ready to search for work. This work goes on all year and again intensifies towards the end of the year as young people again assess their options and start to make decisions.

Our fundraising efforts this year have been a big focus as we try to keep Street Cruise on the ground, without any secured government funding. This important program helps keep many young (especially underage) people stay safe whilst they are out in Byron. Of course we were rattling the cans and charging phones at Bluesfest and also for the first time, at Splendour in the Grass in its new north Byron Shire home. Our involvement in these two major local festivals not only supports us financially – which we very much appreciate – but also enable us to spread our message of safe celebration through Cringe the Binge.

This year our auspiced community projects BUDDI, BYT & STEER have all done some amazing new things and achieved some accolades too! Please read on and see how much they have developed over the past 12 months. The YACROCKCAFE established by the BUDDI team is providing a unique and popular avenue for young musicians across the northern rivers, BYT is presenting some amazing peer developed performances on issues of importance to young people and the STEER project secured some innovative

arrangements including an ABC Heywire grant and international ride sharing options with CAR-MA.

All of us at BYS continue to develop the use of the YAC for drug and alcohol free events and happily hosted Parkways Drive's 10th anniversary tour and Xavier Rudd's second show at the YAC this year. What a great setting we have for outdoor alcohol-free events that patrons really appreciated, so we hope to do more with our amphitheatre next year.

Our committee of management this year has been well-chaired by Richard Heazlewood-Ross and I would like to acknowledge the input of all our committee members, who have worked hard this year to ensure our organisation is well managed and secure. Maxine Caron retires after 13 colourful years of commitment to young people and BYS service in our community. What an achievement! Thanks so much Maxine!

I would like to thank all the funding bodies, generous donors, small businesses, community services students and BYS/BUDDI volunteers this year for their commitment to enabling all the activities reported here in to happen. You all add so much to what we do and how we do it – so I take my hat off to each and every one of you.

Sadly again, this year we lost some very special young people, who were well known to us at BYS. Its always confronting for all of us to know that a young person will not reach their amazing potential, even if we have observed and watched them struggle, or bloom, or both at various times..... there are usually few words that can describe the experience for us working at BYS....but our work involves the highs and the lows.....and we try to support each other during such tough times. The support and positive feedback we continue to receive from our community also helps us during such times.

All our workers are professional and passionate, and I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of them for the amazing work that they do.

And finally, a big thank you to the young people in our community, especially those who shared time with us in BYS programs and activities, who remain the inspiration and motivation for all the work we do.

2013 at the YAC!

By Rosalie Bryant

2013 has been another busy year working with young people in Byron Bay through a range of supportive programs including Youth Connections (YC), the FACS funded Early Intervention & Placement Prevention (EIPP) & the Youth Enterprise Program (YEP). These Byron programs were managed by Senior Youth Worker Rosalie Bryant & supported by youth worker Julian Jet

Case Management / Individual support:

The YC Program (funded by the Federal Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations), supported young people at the YAC & also at Byron High to address the barriers impacting on their lives. Byron Bay YC used an individual case management model to provide ongoing support to clients facing barriers to study/work such as lack of family support, homelessness, financial distress, mental &/or other health issues, self esteem &/or socialisation issues, & anger management. Support time frames ranged from 10 weeks to 10 months with each young person receiving individualised support.

In addition, BYS Byron also provided opportunities for young people to access intensive support/case management through the EIPP program (funded by NSW Community Services).

- 22 young people participated in case management programs in Byron
- 13 young people who had previously participated in case management returned for follow-up support. It's great to know our young people know they can come back for help when they need it.
- A further 10 young people were referred / receiving short term support / assessments through YC.

To achieve the best possible outcomes for young people involved in the program, staff worked closely with the Byron High Welfare team, as well as significant stakeholders in community services including Centrelink, Social Workers, Community Health, Job Network Providers, The Byron Youth House & Allied Health Workers.

Enterprise:

The BYS YEP (which is funded by the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs), is a broad reaching program that value adds to many of the existing programs being delivered by BYS. YEP encourages young people to 'be enterprising'; to find ways to build capacity into their ventures & to grow their ideas & dreams.

Each year YEP delivers the Trail Blazers program, which fosters young peoples' participation in enterprise. Trail Blazers 2013 was designed as 'an Introduction to the Leisure / Adventure Tourism Industry'. Nine young men from Byron High participated in the eight week Trail Blazers - Young Mens Adventure Program which offered participants a fun and interactive introduction to work in the Byron area. Weekly industry safaris / activities were donated by local businesses including Cape Byron Trust/National Parks, Circus Arts, Mountain Bike Tours NSW, Byron Dive Centre & Cape Byron Kayaks.

Support for Parents of Adolescents, and Young Parents:

BYS Byron has continued to support Young parents & Parents of Teens in 2013. The new Parenting Teens Program (funded by NSW Community Services) is an evidence-based program focused on delivering skills & information that can assist parents/caregivers to improve their relationships with their teenagers. Delivered over 8 weeks, the free program uses a facilitated small group model to foster safety & enhance growth.

In addition, BYS ran the Byron / Mullumbimby Young Mums Group (funded by Byron Shire Council – Youth Participation Grant). Young Mums & their families participated in weekly activities that encouraged young families to socialize, gain support from youth workers & access information about a range of parenting options & services.

- 2 Parenting Teens Groups were delivered @ the YAC
- 20 parents participated in the Parenting Teens Program
- 8 Young Mums were supported to access services/engage with community
- 124 young Mums & their families/networks remained connected to support via our online community @ <https://www.facebook.com/youngmums>

Mullumbimby *Cottage*

By Deb Pearse

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 behavioral issues in liaison with Head Welfare. This year has again seen a 100% success rate in assisting y/p to remain at school. 28 young people have been registered through the Youth Connections program. 20 receive intensive long-term support and 10 –15 per week receive short term interventions (info, support, referral etc) 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 on 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 these years are listed below.

The girls' groups have participated in many lively discussion groups addressing current issues and challenges for young people, sometimes aided by the use of Photo language cards.

We have had a number of visitors to the Cottage including sessions for all groups with the Tweed Sexual Health Workers and Jenny Lemmon (drug and alcohol counselor), while individual groups have had local business people giving tips on how to be enterprising. All groups have enjoyed working with Teeya Blatt using the animal totem cards to look at individual strengths. The girls also loved having sessions on 'women's myths and stories' with Teeya, while the boys did 'hero' workshops and made their shield of honour.

Other projects have included building 'emotion boxes' (portraying inner and outer selves) and a focus on healthy living incorporating fitness, stretching, volleyball and team activities.

Most of the young people from both the YC and EIPP programs participated

in a forum at the YAC and gave valuable feedback on issues related to alcohol and violence in Byron at night.

The Year 10 boys also recently participated in a focus group with Byron Council, giving feedback on their new strategy aimed at addressing these same issues.

Year 9 and Year 10 boys have focused on anger management through fitness training, stress management and relaxation techniques. There have been some great outcomes for the boys including a big reduction in truancy and suspensions, improved behavior, the building of positive peer support system within the groups, improved self esteem and a reduction in aggressive and bullying behaviours. A big issue being addressed this year has been the misuse of marijuana and information has been given relating to self-harm, binge drinking and peer pressure. These groups also focus on discussions relating to these challenges and individual support and casework, school & family liaison and appropriate referral is always available.

Another great outcome for this year has been the successful integration of significantly disengaged young people from the YC and EIPP programs into the Links to Learning Hospitality courses. Young people who have really high truancy rates and behavioural issues can quite often do well in a different learning environment with more individual support.



Suffolk Park

PROJECT

By Tegan Rowles

The Suffolk Park Project, delivered by the Byron Youth Service, has continued to thrive over the past year. In addition to effectively delivering a range of events for young people, BYS has played a role in advocating for the young people to obtain better facilities at the park area. The council has renovated the facilities at the park, creating a more usable space for the young people & community in general. Despite the ongoing rainy weather in the area, a diversity of events have been made available to the young people in providing a safe space for physical activities, creative workshops, skate competitions and skate coaching. The numbers of participants, along with the positive feedback from the young people involved, their families and the local community in general has been hugely positive. The events have been effective in engaging young people in healthy, drug and alcohol free programs.

To ensure that quality events were facilitated for young people in the local Suffolk Park area, Byron Youth Service worked in partnership with a diversity of local organisations & businesses. The support of the community & our partners has been fantastic, as we acknowledge the contribution of Spaghetti Circus, Three Worlds, Byron Bay Skateboard Coaching, Suffolk Park Progress Association, Suffolk Park Hall, Suffolk Beach Front Holiday Park, Green Garage, Baz & Shaz Fruit & Veg, Pizza Paradiso, Eagle Boys Pizza, Northern Rivers Ambulance Service, Byron Bay Police, Byron Bay Council.



Coffee courses

By Stephanie Sims

Once a month we ran a 3 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.

Byron Bay Coffee Company donated the coffee.

We had 36 students participating in this course this year.



Lunchtime Program

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

Byron Gourmet Pies donated pies. Santos Organics supported our program this year with their beautiful organic products.

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers.

We fed on average 15 to 25 people on each day.



Di Mahoney

2013 has been another busy year for Cringe the Binge as we continue to develop our activities to reverse youth binge drinking through individual and community action.

The Cringe the Binge crew attended the following professional development & networking opportunities:

6th Australasian Drug & Alcohol Strategy Conference Sydney

NSW Alcohol Summit Parliament House Sydney

Launch of the Alcohol Advertising Review Board First Annual Report Melbourne

CDAT Conference "AOD at the Crossroads" Newcastle

NSW Alcohol Strategy Review Parliament House Sydney

2013 NAAPA Forum "Local Communities & Liquor Licensing" Sydney

We participated in, or made submissions to:

NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Strategies to reduce alcohol-related harms amongst young people

2013 NSW Liquor Act Review

Youth Engagement:

Our crew and vollies engaged with young people at festivals and events during 2013 including BluesFest, Youth Week activities, YACROCKCAFE events, CrankFEST, TEKSTAR, Boomerang Festival, Living Earth Festival, Splendour in the Grass and the Mullum Music Festival. Our teams hand out information, chat with festival goers, and offer a free breathalyzer service as part of encouraging safe celebrations and partying.

Byron Youth Theatre group devised and performed "Mind Made Me" a piece

about mental health issues and how they can relate to alcohol abuse. The group performed “MMM” to their year 9 and 10 peers in all high schools in Byron Shire. They also performed on the National Weekend of Action to amazing reviews from parents and community members.

This year Cringe the Binge partnered with Southern Cross University students to produce animations encouraging young people – especially university students - to think about their choices with alcohol consumption. We showed these at TEKSTAR – the electronic Konvergence.

Cringe the Binge is a key partner in the Byron Schoolies Safety Response. Our team participated in the Schoolies Safety HUB by implementing Cringe the Binge BLOW ZERO competitions as a safety strategy encouraging young people to have a night off alcohol, or to delay their drinking, whilst visiting Byron Bay. Awesome prizes were donated by Byron Visitors Centre tour operators including sky diving, mountain biking, kayaking etc. all designed to encourage our young visitors to “binge on life not booze” whilst in Byron Bay.

We held our 2nd National Weekend of Action in November and gave away a fabulous Byron Bay prize package supported by local businesses. We also held “Mix it Up with Mocktails” (an adult fun-raiser) and “Slurpee Mash-Up” (youth gig) as part of the weekend of action. Amazing food and mocktails were prepared and served by our TAFE hospitality crew, and Lisa Hunt generously donated her time to sing us some tunes.

In 2013 Cringe the Binge was recognised! Cringe the Binge won the Australian Marketing Institute National Excellence Award for “Best Marketing on a Shoestring Budget” after winning the Queensland state award in this category. This award recognized the innovative cheeky Cringe the Binge posters that were produced by Decoder to engage young people around five dangers associated with binge drinking.... violence, sexual assault, brain development, STI’s and mental health issues.

Cringe the Binge was also awarded the Northern Rivers Community Sector ‘Lightbulb Moment’ Award for Community Innovation. This award recognizes innovative solutions to social issues.

So significant progress was made as we advocate for, and engage with, young people to reverse youth binge drinking!





Byron Youth Theatre

By Lisa Apostolides

Byron Youth Theatre (BYT) engages a group of young people from the local community in researching, writing, devising, producing and performing educational shows and workshops that focus on current youth issues. It is Theatre by young people for young people.

This year has been a most prolific year for BYT.

The beginning of the year started with an interesting project titled My Path and Yours funded by the NRMA. The Aged and Disability Officer, Karen Ingelman at Byron Council approached Director Lisa Apostolides to see if BYT could create a piece on sharing the footpaths after numerous complaints were received by council from senior citizens feeling unsafe when sharing the walkways with young skaters and scooters.

The new Company members (10 young people from Byron High, Mullum High and Cape Byron Steiner) were quick to form a solid and creative team to work on this and they were joined by Mike Russo, Artistic Director of the Drill Hall and Lani Pua Moani, a local senior actor

The moving and powerful piece that emerged demonstrated the need for compassionate connections and understanding between the generations and was well received by Year 7 audiences as well as many senior citizens who attended the performances at Shearwater, Cape Byron Steiner, Byron Bay High and Mullumbimby High schools.

In the second part of the 2013 with some seed funding from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, NSW Mental Health Association and Byron Youth Council, BYT started to create their most moving piece to date. Mind Made Me was essentially an initiative of BYT members who approached Lisa late in 2012 with concerns with growing numbers of peers who were involved in self harming behaviours.

Byron Youth Council similarly requested that funding be spent on helping those suffering from mental health issues by providing strategies and information to assist them.

8 members of BYT were engaged in a preliminary research based piece focusing on depression, anxiety, non-suicidal self injury and body image. Through interviewing, surveying, social media and peer group research as

well as sharing personal experiences and engaging in a variety of challenging exercises and facilitated activities, this amazing group of young people created a series of vignettes combining acting, singing, slam poetry, dance and acrobatics.

It was taken to local high schools as part of Mental Health Days orchestrated by Phoebe Lines, Youth Development Officer at Byron Council showing to Year 9 & 10.

At each performance there was a local psychologist who attended in case the material stirred up strong emotions for any audience members.

The response was overwhelming. Every evaluation form returned (over 200 from young people, teachers, some parents and some mental health professionals) rated the performance at excellent/good with a massive call for more theatre performances from BYT and a public performance so that more people could see it.

BYT was able to perform at the Mix it Up with Mocktails event for Cringe the Binge weekend of action in November and have recently secured the Drill Hall Mullumbimby venue to do a public performance of Mind Made Me on December 2nd.

Another Youth Activities grant from Byron Youth Council has enabled Lisa to facilitate a series of Playback Theatre Training skills sessions that have been much fun. The inaugural performance by Byron Youth Playbackers will be held at the YAC November 18th at 6pm for family and friends.

BYT have recently received news that they are again the successful recipients of another Northern Rivers Community Foundation grant which will allow them to devise a performance focusing on sexual health issues in 2014 to be shown at a regional sexual health conference in Byron Bay in April.

BYT continue to be invited to the Blues Festival as the "Roving Brain" which gives them a wonderful experience of event style, promenade theatre. They intend to expand their Street Theatre skills in 2014 by applying for a Youth Activities grant which will allow them to present at more local and regional festivals.

Lisa Apostolides was invited to part of the Country Arts Support Program assessment panel this year, as well as being one of the applicants. She is currently waiting for news about BYT's application as well as one from the Youth Development Support Program.

A huge thank you to Di Mahoney, Steffi Sims and Rosalie Bryant at BYS for auspicing BYT, use of YAC space, administrative support and counseling session provided for Mind Made Me performance piece.



links to learning

By Melissa Honey | Tegan Rowles



2013 Links 2 Learning program, 'Young People Matter', has continued to successfully facilitate community partnerships that enabled accredited education pathways for Byron Shire young people enrolled in our Byron Community Campus [BCC] Distance Education centre &/or our vocational education program. The BYS Bus has continued to be a positive element of our courses, facilitating attendance & enabling safe, daily transportation to /from courses as well as supporting industry &/or cultural enrichment field trips to supplement coursework.

Vocational Education Courses:

Event Management: Rock the YAC Productions Individual Mentorships

Through our community partnership with Indent MusicNSW, three local students were selected to participate in NSW TAFE Strategic Skills Program [SSP] to obtain a Cert II in Live Production, Theatre & Events. Individual mentorship & supervision was facilitated by Melissa Honey to enable the SSP students to acquire and demonstrate their event management skills. As part of the 2013 Rock the YAC Production crew, the young people were fundamental to the smooth organisation of two Byron YAC Ampitheatre events: Xavier Rudd Concert and Slurpee MashUP.

Rock the YAC Productions 'Thanks' it's major 2013 Sponsors: Indent MusicNSW; Rudekat Records; Captured Byron Bay & Island Vibe Festival; Cringe the Binge.

Hospitality Course Menu:

Three different 'flavours' of hospitality courses were delivered this year, designed to give Byron Shire young people a 'mise en place' edge in skill development, further education & employment opportunities within the hospitality industry.

Hors d'oeuvre: CafeYAC Basics + Cert II Skills & Workplace Training [SWAT] Course

This introductory course was delivered in-house, facilitated by Links 2 Learning dynamo, Tegan Rowles, alongside our very own BYS Chef: Rosalie Byrant. Chef Rosalie introduced our first Hospitality crew to brunch menus with cafe sandwiches & crepes galore! The crew created global dishes from Thai Chicken Corn soup to Breakfast Burritos. The culinary skills of the crew were put to test with their first catering contract! In collaboration with Chef Rosalie the crew cooked up a storm & served an array of tantalising finger food in celebration of Byron Youth House's 30th Birthday! The attainment of a Cert II SWAT certificate was facilitated by Odette Brown of TAFE North Coast Ballina Campus.

Entree: ACCESS Cert III Hospitality modules

A community partnership with Country Hospitality Service [CHS] enabled the delivery of this 6-week short course @ Byron YAC . A cohort of 18 participants were provided with Hospitality tuition, inclusive of the following modules: RSA; RCG; Barista; Quality Customer Service; Serve Food & Beverage to Customers; Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures; Health Safety & Security Procedures, Process Financial Transactions & Preparing for Employment. The successful delivery model culminated in a Barefoot Bowls Graduation at the Byron Bowls Club, with the young people & their Mentors: Andrew Woodburn & Tegan Rowles and trainer Andrew celebrated their successful completion of the course.

Chef's Signature Mains: TAFE North Coast Cert II Hospitality + Cert II SWAT
For the 3rd consecutive year, BYS Links 2 Learning & TAFE North Coast were united again in a collaborative partnership to deliver our popular Cert II Hospitality course for Byron Shire Young People. TAFE North Coast : Ballina campus, were fundamental to the successful grant submission, securing Youth Pathways funding, to enable this year's community partnership to proceed. The 16-week Hospitality course, dubbed: 'MasterChef meets Spinal Tap' has our Hospitality students participating in classes delivered across three campuses: Ballina TAFE; Wollongbar TAFE & Byron YAC, three days/ week, clocking up 8-9hr days, as they perfect their culinary skills! The young people were successfully involved in preparing & serving delicious food to students, staff & the general public at Ballina TAFE's Pathways Cafe, as well as the Wollongbar TAFE cafe.

A core component, participating in a work placement, provided our young people with regular hands-on experience applying their skills in the work-

place each Friday. Special Thanks to the following community partners who hosted a work experience placement: Fishheads Byron Bay; Yum Yum Tree Cafe; Cino Bambino, La Table, Earth & Sea Pizza, Eagle Boys & Rice Restaurant.

BCC Flexi School

BCC School: The maturity, attendance & application of this year's BCC students has been par excellence! The crew have engaged consistently with their studies thanks to the unwavering support, understanding & encouragement from their educators: Steve Halstead & Angela Carroll (Southern Cross Distance Education) & ongoing mentoring from Odette Brown (Ballina TAFE). Once again a range of enriching educational initiatives were enacted by Southern Cross Distance Education, to lessen the isolation of distance education & provide learners with contextual, hands-on learning experiences. The students were visited by a range of their subject teachers, including English & Maths, as well as participating in Science labs, PE &/or cultural workshops/excursions.

BCC 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; Ballina TAFE; Byron Bay HS; Mullumbimby HS & the Student Services District office.

YOWAY: Mind, Body & Soul Program:

In 2013 young people continued to participate in a range of wellbeing experiences including:

Boxation: Big Bunch of Thanks to Pete Gauge & his Big Heart, who provided FREE sessions @ his Mullumbimby gym this year.

Industry Field Trips: Byron Bay Herb Nursery; Byron @ Byron Resort; Zentvelds Coffee; Byron Farmers Market; Rosebank Green Frog Cafe; Mullumbimby Community Gardens.

Interagency workshops &/or Guest Mentors: mental health, substance use & Love Bites: sexual health.

Learning & Work Skills: Information Literacy Notetaking & Research Skills; Resume & interview skills Mindfulness & memory skills.



ON THE STREETS

MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES

By Deb Pearse

Our Street Cruise program continues to be a core program aimed at keeping young people safe in our community. With alcohol-related violence at record high levels in Byron Bay, our youth workers provide a key point of contact for young people and a caring presence on Friday (and occasionally Saturday) nights.

The main objective of Street Cruise has been to establish and foster positive relationships with young people in our community, 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.

We face an ongoing challenge to fund this program, as attempts at government funding have again been unsuccessful this year. Thanks to our many community supporters who helped us raise funds, or provided food and water for the service, your support is greatly appreciated.

This includes Earth 'n Sea Pizza, Byron Captured Water, Eagle Boys (now Lighthouse Pizza), the Big Fish, Byron Bay Golf Club and their supporters. 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!

Finally, thank you to everyone in the community for their kind words and positive feedback throughout 2013. 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.



STEER focuses on youth safe transport options, choices and places. STEER increases awareness and availability of safe transport options, encourages and educates youth to make great transport choices and supports and rewards youth to get great places. Our foundation is making person-2-person connections with youth and parent/carers.

A fundamental part of STEER are the “Core Four” school presentations for students in Year 10 & 11. Research indicates students who participate in resilience-focused education programs are associated with a 44% reduced relative risk for car crashes. In collaboration with our partners RRISK students at high schools in Byron Shire are given the opportunity to participate in four resilience-focused programs significantly reducing their risk of car crash and the increasing likelihood they will get great places.

In 2013 STEER became an Accredited Provider for the new statewide Safer Drivers Course for Learners. Working in partnership with the RMS, STEER is now delivering this innovative and ground breaking Course. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive:

“I learnt to pay attention when driving and that I have a lot more control with what goes on than I thought”

“... it was a great experience and I learnt a lot”

“... was fun and interesting and at the same time I actually learnt”.

STEER has been working in partnership with an Irish company to develop the “Carma Carpooling” App enabling people to post and search for car trips. Carpooling is great - environmentally, financially and socially.

STEER was a recipient of a 2013 FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grant to develop “Keys Please Kiosks” at local festivals and community events. Festival patrons will be encouraged to leave their keys at the Keys Please Kiosk and will be supported to celebrate responsibly throughout the Festival. Prior to returning their keys, volunteers will offer a free breathtest and transport information.

By Phil Preston

BUDDI Community Drug Action Team

By Nicqui Yazdi

BUDDI - Byron Underage Drinking & Drug Initiative - Community Drug Action Team, was successful in receiving a number of grants throughout 2013, to continue their work supporting youth programs, youth events and volunteer support in Byron Shire.

2013 kicked off for BUDDI with the 'Which Way Festival' in January, a day of youth hardcore, rock, metal and pop-punk bands from the YACROCKCAFE program, taking to the stage in the YAC Amphitheatre, 20 bands in 12 hours!

BUDDI continues to manage the volunteers for the Byron Schoolies Safety Response and the Schoolies HUB, helping to look after the 10,000 young school leavers who attend their celebrations in Byron Bay each year. The Schoolies HUB is open 24 hours a day for the 17 days of these celebrations. HUB Volunteers received free certificate training in both Apply First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid in 2013, through grants received by BUDDI from the NRMA and the Australian Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). All volunteers have 'Working With Children Checks'.

BUDDI also received grants and donations from various other sources, including the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, Byron Bay Rotary and Byron Bay Hardcore, in support of the work that BUDDI does in providing young people with drug and alcohol-free alternatives and youth music programs and events.

BUDDI'S facebook pages keeps the community & young people informed of all sorts of things, including events, drug & alcohol information, teen stuff & other important news & community events & happenings.

The facebook pages are -YACROCKCAFE, Friday Nights @ The YAC, Buddi Cdat & BUDDI Community Drug Action Team.... give them all a 'like'!



YACROCKCAFE

By Nicqui Yazdi

The YACROCKCAFE has continued to put youth music on the map in 2013, with four bands playing each Friday night throughout the year. This free-entry, drug and alcohol-free weekly program has now reached out across Australia with young bands coming regularly from every state, to provide free shows for the youth of the Northern Rivers and support local bands to be able to network and connect further with other bands in the industry. The program also saw it's first international act this year too, a young hard-core band from Germany, who did a free show on their National tour.

The YACROCKCAFE also currently has 209 band members on a private on-line 'mentoring' social media group page. This 'group' was originally formed in order to organise the YACROCKCAFE events, but has grown into something much more over the last two years. This group page, now regularly provides these young musicians with information on workshops, events, band competitions and other opportunities to network and connect with others within the music industry, including festivals, promotors, PR companies, record companies, film production companies, merchandisers and more.

BUDDI regularly partnered with Byron Youth Service, supplying BUDDI volunteers and also YACROCKCAFE interns throughout 2013, to assist to support BYS and YAC youth and music events, including the Cringe The Binge national weekend of action events.

The YACROCKCAFE program has also seen two high school music and events students on work-placement and thirteen SAE Quantm sound engineering students, enter into internships in 2013, providing them with much needed and valued experience in producing the YACROCKCAFE's weekly live music events.

Volunteers & Fundraising

By Stephanie Sims

Thanks to all our amazing volunteers and supporters that helped us out throughout 2013!

March – Bluesfest – we ran 2 breathalyser stalls where patrons donated coins for the service. We recharged mobile phones for a small fee. We also had a condom guessing game to win tickets to next year’s Bluesfest! Lots of fun!

April:- Byron Market Charity of the day – Volunteers collected donations from patrons visiting the markets.

- Seafood Raffle @ Beach hotel

May – Parking fundraiser @ Byron Triathlon

July:- Golf Day Fundraiser - 100 patrons attended Golf Day with a silent auction with prizes donated by fabulous local businesses.

- Splendour in the Grass – Breathalyser and phone charging stall. A very successful fundraising opportunity.

September – Living Earth Festival – Xavier Rudd Raffle

October :- Boomerang Festival – Breathalyser & phone charging stall

- Xavier Rudd – Food stall and Falls festival raffle

Volunteers @ students placements @ the YAC

Shane Ward mows our lawn on a regular basis! Thank you Shane!

Various tradesmen have given their time to maintain equipment at the YAC
12 Volunteers helped us run the breathalyzer/phone charging stalls at Bluesfest

6 volunteers helped us run Breathalyser/phone charging stall @ Splendour in the Grass.

2 volunteers helped out at the Living Earth Festival

6 volunteers helped us run the stall @ Boomerang Festival

4 volunteers helped out at the Xavier Rudd gig

6 volunteers helped us run the Golf Day fundraiser

6 volunteers cooked lunch for young people attending courses at the YAC.
2 Volunteers painted the café lounge and computer room
1 workplace student was engaged to create a SNAP photography profile book
1 workplace student was engaged to help with the Cringe the Blinge campaign.

BYS are the Corporate Managers of the Byron Youth Activity Centre Crown Reserve Trust. In 2012/13 financial year we had 7639 people visiting the YAC for programs, events & activities.

1. Which Way Festival with Nicqui Yazdi
2. Boxation Classes
3. BYT Youth Theatre with Lisa Apostolides
4. Positive Change for Marine Life Event
5. Capoeira
6. Bluesfest Busking Competition
7. Flash Mob rehearsals
8. 13yr old Birthday party
9. Earth Guardians
10. NRCF Filming
11. STEER - SLDC meetings
12. Church meetings
13. Youth Council Geek Week Gig
14. 5yr old birthday Party
15. Hearing Awareness Week
16. NA meetings
17. Australian Sports Commission
18. Memorial Service for Ivy & Bella
19. Yumi Tagoda Fundraiser
20. Xavier Rudd concert
21. Uncle Birthday celebration & Cardboard Creation Day
22. Roundabout Theatre – DRIVE
23. First Aid courses
24. Reconnect
25. Byron Bay Surf Festival
26. Wu Chi School of Arts
27. National Day on Climate Change
28. Hardcore Shows
29. Solomon Island Gig

Thanks to everyone who dropped coins in our jars or provided goods and donations to us throughout 2013....your support is so very much appreciated by all of us at BYS....



Staff *and* Committee

Committee of Management

Richard Heazlewood-Ross	Chairperson
Maxine Caron	Vice Chairperson
Ian Leggo	Treasurer
Rob Eldridge	Secretary
Phil Preston	Member
Caston Smith	Member
Mark Smith	Member
Nicqui Yazdi	BUDDI Representative
Stephanie Sims	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
Tegan Rowles	Youth Worker

Casual Youth Workers: Jemma Brunell, Marti Saam, David Dalton, Traci Adams, Luke Evans, Paul Tischler (BUDDI)

YAC Co-workers

Steve Halstead	BCC Teacher
Angela Carroll	BCC Teacher
Odette Brown	Ballina TAFE
Chad Kolcze	Uncle Project
Simon Menlove	Uncle Project
Nicqui Yazdi	BUDDI Team Leader
Lisa Apostolides	BYT Director
Phil Preston	STEER Project

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 Web: www.bys.org.au

The Widow's Cottage 34 Gordon Street Mullumbimby NSW 2482
Ph: 6684 3086 Email: dpearce@bys.org.au Web: www.bys.org.au

