



NEWSLETTER

Issue 8

October 2013

Mark Bunting, Service Coordinator, Youth Connections



Mark

Another couple of months has gone by. It will be Christmas before we know it. A lot has happened in Youth Connections. We lost two of our old staff members, Hayley Gosling from Gladstone and Casey Conway from Rockhampton. Casey wasn't totally lost to Red Cross as he moved to Brisbane and is now working in one of our programs down there. We welcomed on board Sarah Devney in Gladstone and we will have on board Seika Yasso until Christmas to help us catch up on the workload. Also by January we will have another staff member in Gladstone to service Gladstone and Biloela.

What's been happening in Youth Connections lately? The BKSBS program has become so popular we have had to go to four sessions a week. This program is a literacy and numeracy program where clients work at their own pace to improve their skills. As you can see from this newsletter, our quarterly BBQ and games day in the park was a great success. Youth Connections will be organising some activities in Mount Morgan, Yeppoon, Emerald and Gladstone. We will keep all our agencies up to date on what's happening, where and when we will be.



Seika

The Youth Connections office will have new opening and closing times from November 1. Monday to Thursday we will open at 9.00am and close the doors at 3.30pm. On Friday's we will open at 9.00am and close at 12.00pm to allow staff to catch up on their administration tasks.

Customer Service Course

A number of Youth Connections participants including Jamahal Williams (not pictured), Jessie Brand, Tyson LaVars, Georgia Newcombe and Nakea Morton have started a five week Access Course. The course includes three modules that will count towards a Certificate II in Customer Service with Smart City Vocational College —



(from left) Tyson, Georgia and Nakea

Youth Connections provide young people with flexible and individual assistance to improve their education, life-skills and personal development

Communicate in the Workplace, Participate in OHS Processes and Deliver a Service to Customers. Along with working on their resumes, mock interviews and work experience for all the students with Energy Skills Queensland, the course also includes Cultural Development for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with Back on Track Training.

When asked what she thought of the course so far, Georgia said it is "pretty mad". Jessie is looking forward to working in Child Care as part of her work experience component. She said "The best part of the course is that you work at your own pace and are not rushed."



(above) Jessie

The course concludes 22 November.



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BBQ in the park

Earlier this month, Youth Connections participants and staff enjoyed a sausage sizzle and activities at the Victoria Park BBQ area. Some of the games including the 'minute to win it game' of shaking the ping pong balls out of the tissue box, proved much more difficult than it looked, but it was certainly entertaining to watch!



Above: Too many cooks?
Left: Tyson, Jordan and Nick playing 'minute to win it'

Great fund-raising Tyson!

Tyson LaVars recently enrolled and raised money to participate in the Multiple Sclerosis 'MS Read-a-thon'. Tyson raised over \$100 through sponsors and donations by reading books.



Well done to Tyson for all his fundraising efforts.

(left) Tyson

Helping young people who have left school early or who are thinking of leaving to continue with their education and gain Year 12 (or equivalent) qualifications

Well done, Neeson



Congratulations go to Neeson Gleadhill for attaining his RSA Certificate.



Australian Red Cross

THE POWER OF HUMANITY

Youth Connections is funded by the Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Youth Connections aims to provide an improved safety net to young people who have disengaged or are at risk of disengaging from education, offering flexible case managed support and services that acknowledge the role that family and community play in a young person's development and well being. Youth Connections' objective is to support young people to attain Year 12 or equivalent and to help them make a successful transition through education and onto further education, training or work.