



# YWCA Clubhouse Newsletter

A high-tech digital studio where Tuggeranong youth collaborate with industry mentors to design, create, and pursue their passions.

## Welcome to the August edition of the Clubhouse Newsletter!

### In this issue:

- A generous donation from The Snow Foundation
- The YWCA Round the World Breakfast
- The Tech Freeze Winter Fundraising Appeal
- Meet Maddie, one of our Clubhouse members
- Clubhouse Ambassador Hala shares her Tech Freeze experience
- The 2016 Annual Clubhouse Conference; and
- The Aviation Teen Start-up

## A huge thanks to The Snow Foundation

The YWCA Clubhouse would like to give a huge thank you to the Snow Foundation, who have provided a generous donation of \$30,000 over two years to support the sustainability of this program.

This builds on the support the Snow Foundation provided in 2014 to help establish the Clubhouse program, and speaks to the power of partnerships to achieve outcomes for young people in Canberra.

The Clubhouse relies entirely on corporate and philanthropic support to function, and a key part of the program is the role of our Clubhouse Coordinator, a qualified youth worker who supports our members, undertakes outreach into the community, and helps connect members to other services and programs as needed.

Support from The Snow Foundation will contribute towards maintaining this position, ensuring that we can keep achieving amazing outcomes for our members.

## Industry comes together to support the Clubhouse

**On April 27, we celebrated world YWCA Day with a record 170 corporate guests, members, colleagues and friends at our annual Round the World Breakfast event.**

Our Executive Director, Frances Crimmins welcomed guests, and spoke about the importance of empowering young people, and particularly women and girls to have educational and vocational opportunities for careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).



We were delighted to have Dr Sarah Pearson, CEO of the CBR Innovation Network as our keynote speaker. Dr Pearson further endorsed the importance of STEAM, and highlighted opportunities for women to create change and have an impact within the STEAM field, sharing her passion for physics, entrepreneurship and venture capitalism!

While we enjoyed a delicious breakfast courtesy of QT Canberra, Dr Pearson joined Dr Annette Berriman and Professor Elanor Huntington in a panel discussion on their respective careers in STEAM.

The event was a terrific way to celebrate World YWCA Day, with a record \$5000 raised for the YWCA Clubhouse. We wish to thank everybody for the generous contributions we received on the day.

## About the Clubhouse

Open to all young people in the Tuggeranong region between the ages of 10 and 18, the Clubhouse provides a creative and collaborative out-of-school learning environment.

**Hours: Mon-Fri 3pm-6pm**

**W: [ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au](http://ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au) P: (02) 6294 4633**  **YWCAClubhouse**  **@YWCA\_CCH**

## The Tech Freeze Winter Fundraising Appeal

**This year, our winter appeal raised money for the YWCA Clubhouse. Supporters took on the Tech Freeze Challenge - relinquishing technology for a weekend and ultimately raising awareness of the importance of digital inclusion, as well as a raising an impressive \$5000!**

Over the weekend of 18- 19 June, a few brave folks said farewell to their mobile phones, iPads, televisions and computers for a 48 hour period, and sought the support and sponsorship of friends and family for doing so.



Most of them said they thought it would be easy; Clubhouse Coordinator Lach said that after doing the 40 hour famine and giving up food and furniture back in his school days, "switching off a few devices for the weekend shouldn't be an issue at all."

Similarly, Hala Batainah, Federal Director at Microsoft, and passionate Clubhouse ambassador thought the challenge sounded simple enough, and wanted to prove to her friends and family that she was indeed capable of going without her technology.

Even our Executive Director Frances Crimmins was optimistic as she and her family headed towards the start of a weekend in the absence of the internet. "Piece of cake!" she said.

Despite early optimism and everyone's best attempts and intentions, it was agreed that going without technology was a far greater ask than anyone had anticipated.

For Lach, making plans with friends quickly became complicated, while for Hala, conversations with family overseas were almost impossible.

Both Lach and Hala also learned how much they relied on technology to find instant answers to questions and found it challenging to find answers through other means instead.

In the Crimmins household, the overwhelming realisation that technology is ingrained into every facet of their lives saw an unsuccessful end to the challenge.

Everything from using the internet for homework to making phone calls to coordinate soccer games meant a weekend without the internet was simply not possible.

In the end, the message was clear. Digital inclusion is vital in today's society, and it is crucial that young people are developing digital skills that equip them to take on jobs of the future.

On her experience, Hala reflected "To be without technology or access to technology is to be restricted to a much smaller world; to a set of ideas and thoughts that are much narrower than the world that technology can open up".

We are grateful to everyone who made donations or took on the Tech Freeze Challenge.



## Meet a Clubhouse Member - Maddie

**Tell us a bit about yourself?**

My name is Maddie, and I am 11 years old. I've been coming to the Clubhouse for two years, and I come every day except for Tuesdays, because that's Teenage Tuesday. In two years, I'll be old enough to come every day! Some of my favourite things to do here include watching and making videos, making comics and creating music.

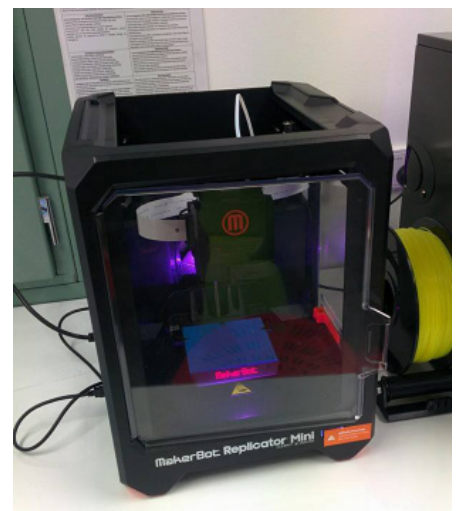
**Tell us a bit about your experience with the Clubhouse?**

The Clubhouse is built on trust, so I know it's important to be good and make good choices about the activities I'm doing, and make sure I'm always doing something productive.

**What are the best bits about coming to the Clubhouse?**

My favourite thing about coming to the clubhouse is that there are lots of friendly faces here that I know. Some of my school friends also come to the Clubhouse, and its nice spending time with them here and on the playground.

I think the 3D printer is my favourite piece of equipment at the Clubhouse (below). I think it's very futuristic how the little printing needles manage to make something that's real and you can hold.





## MY TECH FREEZE - HALA BATAINAH, FEDERAL DIRECTOR AT MICROSOFT AND CLUBHOUSE AMBASSADOR

**Hala Batainah is the Federal Director at Microsoft, and a passionate ambassador for the YWCA Clubhouse. To support the Tech Freeze Appeal, the self-confessed technology devotee relinquished tech for weekend. Here, she shares what she learned.**

The challenge, should I wish to accept it, sounded simple enough. For one whole weekend of June 18th and 19th, I would go tech free to raise much-needed funds for the YWCA Clubhouse.

Would I accept? Of course, I said, happy to do it. I signed up, ask for donations from friends and family - who donated because they did not believe I would be able to do without my tech!

You have to understand: their cynicism was understandable. I am a big, BIG technology user. Not just Information technology, oh, no.

Since the day my father presented my brothers and I with our first Atari VCS (yes, that far back) I was hooked on technology and went on to study computer science.

But that is another story. Anyway, you get the idea. Going tech free is painful for me.

So, I prepared. I paid all my bills during the week, I made sure all friends and family knew that I would be tech free on that weekend and I cleared the deck so that I would not be posting or reading Kindle (I use my Surface for that).

### What I did not count on?

Ah, I could prepare as much as I wanted, but I forgot a few key things.

First, I use my smart-phone for my music. A day without music is a wasted day in my view. So without my mobile and computer, I pulled out my old boom-box (yes, I am that old) and old CDs (no vinyl for me) and played music. But not the latest, because my music collection is online. Now you might argue this is still using technology, but I was not going off-grid here, just computer and mobile free.

I use Skype to stay in touch with my "spread across the world" family. I was not looking forward to paying \$2.30 a minute to call them on a land-line phone, so they did not hear from me on the weekend. Maybe that was good all around.

And so on and so on. I had many examples where I wanted to look up something or needed an answer to a question or wanted to call someone and had to stop and either reassess or find another way of getting the answer. Not efficiently I might add.

### What did I learn?

Very simply I learned that technology helps me to understand things in new ways, to answer the big and small questions and to explain how things work: faster, cheaper and much more accessibly.

To be without technology or access to technology is to be restricted to a much smaller world; to a set of ideas and thoughts that are much narrower than the world that technology can open up.

If I only had to rely to myself, family or neighbours (i.e. people close by) then how far could I go and how far would I grow?

The weekend showed me how technology can broaden my horizons: to learn, experiment, discuss and reach out. It allows me to engage with family and friends, many on the other side of the world, faster than the time

it takes to boil a kettle. Almost (not quite there yet) as if I was face to face with them.

Technology opens the world.

Going tech free for one weekend showed me that while I am ok not to be a slave to my technology (I was already ok as I rarely work on the weekend or check my mobile obsessively), I was not ok with being disconnected or unhooked from the learning machine for too long.

In the context of the YWCA Clubhouse, my passion for this cause and the absolute need to ensure everyone has access to technology only solidified after the tech free weekend.

People need access to enjoy the opportunity to learn for themselves and from others, to have their questions and their answers. The ability to reach out, ask for help, give help and to fully participate.

We cannot have a digital revolution and differentiate Australia in the 4th Industrial Revolution if we have a society where some have access to technology and some don't.

I challenge you to try it for one weekend if you don't believe me. You might just be surprised how much we depend on technology and specifically access to technology. Go ahead, try it.

Please come back and let me know how you went. You will most probably need to use technology to do that.

Back in tech land and thankful for it!



## The 2016 Clubhouse Network Annual Conference

**Earlier this year, YWCA Canberra Executive Director Frances Crimmins and Clubhouse Coordinator Lach Howarth travelled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the USA for the 2016 Clubhouse Network Annual Conference.**



The four day annual conference provides an opportunity for the global Clubhouse community to strengthen ties through networking, share their experiences and expand on their knowledge and skills in the technology space. This year, the conference was attended by 100 Clubhouse staff, directors and partners from 19 different countries.

Over the four days, a variety of workshops were held, of which YWCA Canberra facilitated two. The first workshop shared insights about working in partnership with a local school, while the second looked at the construction and use of a Rube Goldberg marble machine, and was presented in collaboration with the Gold Crown Clubhouse from Denver, Colorado.

Of his experience, Lach said "All the other (Clubhouse) Coordinators are so inspiring, and always have me coming back to Canberra full of enthusiasm, excitement and new ideas to bring to the Clubhouse. I also really enjoyed seeing the amazing work coming from Clubhouses around the world.

The workshop 'After Effects with Purpose' was great too, covering the basics of how to use a green screen to insert yourself, or any other green screened image in to another video. It really increased my desire to get a copy or two of Adobe After Effects for our Clubhouse".

## Aviation Teen Start-Up

**During the July school holidays, Clubhouse Coordinator Lach Howarth was lucky enough to be a part of the Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre's Aviation Teen Start-Up, an innovation camp for 10 - 18 year olds, held at the Canberra Airport and Brindabella Park.**



The YWCA Clubhouse was invited along to be a part of the Technology Showcase section of the Aviation Teen-Start Up. The Technology Showcase is an opportunity for participants to take a break from forming and developing pitch ideas to explore new technologies they may not have had contact with in the past and to serve as potential inspiration for ideas and solutions.

We brought our recording studio out to Brindabella Park and ran a session on recording, looping, mixing and keyboard skills. With close to 50 young people participating, it was a great afternoon, and we even had a few parents say that the Clubhouse showcase was the highlight for their children.

There isn't much I love more than being able to share the enjoyment I get from music with others. We had some accomplished pianists record some interesting versions of well-

known songs, people who'd never touched a keyboard before, who were recording loops and beginning to improvise solos.

There isn't much I love more than being able to share the enjoyment I get from music with others. We had some accomplished pianists record some interesting versions of well-known songs, people who'd never touched a keyboard before, who were recording loops and beginning to improvise solos. Groups of people were all playing the keyboard at once, effectively looping without the use of a computer; it was incredible!

We were not the only group participating in the showcase, Microsoft showcased programming within Minecraft as well as their HoloLens and Poppin Code brought out their HTC Vive (which I talked about previously, in a post on the Clubhouse blog called *Virtual and Augmented Reality - What is it?*).

Overall, it was fantastic to see so many young people excited and interested in developing solutions to real world problems. I'd like to congratulate Team Easy-Fly for their winning pitch, and you can read more about Aviation Teen Start-Up and Team Easy-Fly's pitch in Canberra Business News.

If any of the things I've talked about interest you and you would like to become a part of the Clubhouse, (doesn't matter if you're 10 - 18 years old, an adult, or a kid trapped inside an adult's body like myself) please get in contact! You can email me at [lachlan.howarth@ywca-canberra.org](mailto:lachlan.howarth@ywca-canberra.org).



## PARTNERSHIPS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND WORKPLACE GIVING: CORNERSTONES OF THE CLUBHOUSE



### Unlocking the potential of our young people through technology

The role of technology in the empowerment of young people is important for their development into productive adults (Gee, 2013). Research demonstrates the importance of engaging, interest-promoting and well-resourced out-of-school environments for supporting the learning and development of young people. These ‘third spaces’ represent a critical element in the ecology of opportunities for youth (Gutierrez et al., 2003; 2009).

The Clubhouse addresses this need and supports young people to develop their skills and ability to contribute to society, and enhance their chances for success. In south Canberra, no similar venture exists, making it the only place where young Canberrans in the Tuggeranong region can go to use high-end hardware and software for free, enabling them to develop skills that have become practically essential to career progression in the 21st century.

The 2013 independent evaluation of The Intel Computer Clubhouse Network demonstrated that 85 per cent of Clubhouse Members now plan to attend postsecondary education, and 92 per cent of Clubhouse Members “definitely” or “probably” believing they will use skills acquired in the Clubhouse in their future careers. But the Clubhouse doesn’t stock itself: every donation of knowledge, money, hardware and software helps.

### The importance of Clubhouse Partners

The sustainability and success of the YWCA Clubhouse is determined by the support of corporate and philanthropic partnerships. These partnerships may comprise software and hardware contributions, professional mentoring for Clubhouse Members, and financial contributions to cover operating costs. To see a list of the wonderful organisations that have supported our Clubhouse to date, visit the YWCA Canberra website.

To discuss the exciting ways in which your organisation can contribute to the YWCA Clubhouse, contact Joanna Le, Director of Corporate Relations and Communications, via [joanna.le@ywca-canberra.org.au](mailto:joanna.le@ywca-canberra.org.au) or 02 6175 9900.



## Help us establish a world-class Clubhouse

We need your help to ensure our Clubhouse continues to thrive and provide industry standard technology and life-changing development opportunities for our members. Our critical area of need for funding is to maintain our operational capacity with the employment of a qualified, full-time Clubhouse coordinator. Ongoing donations are also critical to ensure the Clubhouse offers the best in hardware, software and experiences.

### YWCA Clubhouse Coordinator

YWCA Canberra employs a full-time Clubhouse Coordinator to manage the program, and its member, mentor and community networks. This role is critical to the viability and ongoing success of the program.

- Funding required: \$75,000 per annum

### What else can your donations achieve?

- \$300 will buy heaps of great craft supplies, like felt, LED lights, cardboard and paints, which are critical to fostering a 'maker' culture at the Clubhouse.
- \$1,000 will help us purchase new graphics cards for our members to use to enhance their video game designs and programming.
- \$5000 can send our Clubhouse Coordinator to the Global Annual Conference. This event brings together Clubhouse staff, executive directors, sponsors and collaborators from organisations across the world. It's an opportunity for our Coordinator to develop new ideas, skills and perspectives that they can take home and implement to better serve our Clubhouse members.
- \$75,000 will fund the employment of our Clubhouse Coordinator for a year, enabling us to support our members with mentoring and engagement, perform outreach into the Tuggeranong community, and grow the Clubhouse community more broadly!

## Work with us!

To find out how you or your business can contribute to the YWCA Clubhouse, contact Joanna Le, Director of Corporate Relations and Communication, via [joanna.le@ywca-canberra.org.au](mailto:joanna.le@ywca-canberra.org.au) or 02 6175 9900

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