

The Clubhouse

WHERE TECHNOLOGY MEETS IMAGINATION

MAY 2017

YWCA Clubhouse Newsletter

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

CLUBHOUSE SNAPSHOT

Hi everyone, and welcome to the first edition of the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse newsletter for 2017. We've had a great start to the year, with some terrific engagement from young people in the Tuggeranong region. Over the last few months, we've seen an average of 13 - 15 young people attend the program each afternoon, and the number of young women attending the program has increased by 40 per cent!

We've been engaged in a range of school outreach sessions with local high schools this past month, including the Tech Time Workshops with Caroline Chisholm School, and the Canberra Youth Voices (CYV) program with Calwell High School. You can read more about both of these great programs in this edition.

Our Youth Engagement team continue to join us each afternoon, sharing their skills and interests with our Clubhouse members. Tim attends on Mondays and loves drawing, logo design, small businesses, and start-ups. Aoife is with us on Tuesdays, and is the best person to ask about anything gaming related. On Wednesdays, Ciara shares her creativity, facilitating a range of activities including t-shirt design, film, photography and other art and craft related things. Annie-Lea is in on Thursdays, and has started learning ukulele, and sharing her passion for music and performance. On Fridays, we rotate between all of our excellent youth engagement team members, and see someone new in the Clubhouse each week.

Recently our Clubhouse members have produced some great drawings, impressive and complex Minecraft creations, 3D sculptures, paintings, and musical performances. We've also seen miniature skate parks built on tables, skateboards painted, paper craft robots come to life, and much more.

Finally, we have just concluded our April School Holiday Program, which offered a great variety of opportunities for young people, including a disc golf excursion to Eddison Park, lots of drawing, ukulele and piano classes, digital music recording, and a photography excursion to Tidbinbilla.

I'm proud to see the Clubhouse, and the valuable opportunities the program provides for young people in the Tuggeranong region continues to evolve and grow. I look forward to bringing you further updates on our achievements throughout the year.



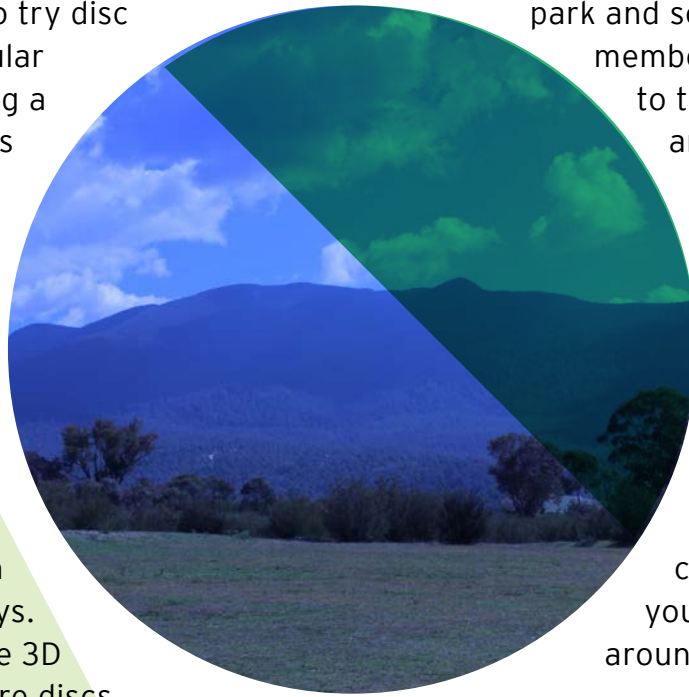
LACH HOWARTH
CLUBHOUSE
COORDINATOR

90.5% of Clubhouse members agreed with the statement

**"I KNOW IF I
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SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

It was great to see so many of our members engaged across the April school holidays, especially during the two excursions and our music themed days. Our first excursion took us out to Eddison Park to try disc golf. Disc golf is like regular golf, but instead of hitting a ball into a hole, the aim is to throw a Frisbee into a basket. We talked about what makes Frisbees fly, the physics behind them, and the Bernoulli principal. Our members really enjoyed the activity and have already made requests for it to happen again next school holidays. Next time, we will use the 3D printer to create miniature discs, and set up a condensed version of Disc golf at the Clubhouse.



The second excursion was out to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, where we were joined by the Woden Youth Centre and Belconnen Community Service for a barbecue in the park and some photography. The members had the opportunity to take nature photographs and explore some of the manual settings on the Clubhouse cameras. We took lots of interesting photos, in particular some great uses of depth of field. This was a great opportunity to learn new photography skills, and make new connections with other young people from around Canberra.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT THE CLUBHOUSE

This year, for [International Women's Day](#), the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse hosted a girls-only celebration focusing on all the amazing things women do in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) fields.

The day featured women mentors and staff, including Hayley, a long term Clubhouse mentor who is also completing her Certificate IV in Youth Work and Community Services.

Activities included t-shirt design, music, teaching, art, showcasing some of the amazing and exciting work that they do, a bite to eat, and lots of music, games, exploration and fun. We had a fantastic turn out, with 12 female Clubhouse members attending.

The theme for International Women's Day this year was "Be Bold for Change" where everyone was asked to "call on the masses or

call on yourself to help forge a better working world - a more gender inclusive world."

At the Clubhouse, we endeavoured to encourage more young women to get involved with STEAM activities. We know that some young women feel more comfortable trying new things when they aren't around boys, and we wanted to give them this opportunity. The feedback from the girls on the day was resoundingly positive with many excited to start attending the Clubhouse more regularly.

We were very lucky to have special guest mentor, Hayley, join us to celebrate International Women's Day. Hayley is an amazing local musician, fantastic guitarist, and incredible singer. She has played gigs at venues all around Canberra, including some amazing sets at the annual [National Folk Festival](#).

It was great to see Hayley and the members making music together with everyone jamming out to Smoke on the Water by Deep Purple. Hayley has said that she is keen to come back to the Clubhouse, so if you're interested in music this is definitely an opportunity you don't want to miss out on.

We look forward to celebrating International Women's Day again next year, and hope to continue to see many young women at the Clubhouse on a regular basis.

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INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE-LEA ROWLEY

Annie-Lea Rowley is a Youth Engagement Officer with YWCA Canberra, and a familiar face in the Clubhouse. We caught up with her to find out a bit more about her role, what she enjoys most about the Clubhouse, and why she's proud to be part of the team.

Tell us about your role at YWCA Canberra.

My role at YWCA Canberra is as a Youth Engagement Officer, which means I am engaged with many young people in a range of different capacities. I create, coordinate and deliver programs for young people, for instance women's leadership, money and budgeting, cyber safety, respectful relationships, and many more. I also work in the youth centre drop in space, and at the Clubhouse as a support for the young people. As a Youth Engagement Officer, I also have a case work load assisting young people in a one-on-one basis, to support them achieve their identified goals. I also help with organising and promoting bigger events such as YWCA Canberra's School Holiday Program, Youth Week events, LGBTQIA Prom, and anything else that pops up throughout the year.

What is your favourite thing about the Clubhouse?

This would have to be the recording studio and working with young people on their music. I am very musical and I love being able to learn, share, and explore the different resources and technologies that are available, along with the young people who access the service!

When you're not at work, what's your relaxation activity of choice?

I have recently purchased a Ukulele and I love learning my favourite songs and singing



along. Watching Lach practice and teach others at the Clubhouse is what inspired me to learn! I also enjoy yoga, reading, watching my favourite TV shows, and talking with close friends.

What's an achievement that you're proud of?

Learning an instrument has always been one of my goals so I feel very proud and excited that I am now learning how to play the Ukulele. I also feel so honoured to be in position where I can make a positive difference in a young person's life; I am very proud to be a Youth Worker.

What makes you proud to work at YWCA Canberra?

I have worked for YWCA Canberra for over six years now and I feel very proud of the scope this organisation has on making positive change. There are several frontline services such as the Youth Engagement Team, the Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre, the Food Hub, the Housing Support Unit, and Children Services. There are also dedicated teams to advocate for policy change, and training young women in various qualifications. I feel proud that YWCA Canberra helps support the community in such a comprehensive way.

TECH TIME

Anissa Jones is an English, SOSE, and Digital Technology teacher at Caroline Chisolm High School. Over the past few months she has brought eight students into the Clubhouse to participate in the Tech Time Workshops. These are a series of robotics workshops using Lego Mindstorms EV3s, and are designed to challenge students in years seven and eight to build two robots, and ultimately compete against each other in a series of five challenges.

We talked to Anissa to find out why such opportunities are so valuable, and why she wanted to be involved.

Tell us a bit about yourself?

I have been a teacher in the ACT for 15 years. I am a mother of three and recently became a grandmother. My passion for all things ICT began in the 1980s at school with Apple Macs - yes I'm that old! Having one hour a week wasn't enough, and when we got one at home, I was always on it.

I'm also a runner with the Queanbeyan Deadly Runners - an Aboriginal running group whose focus is on improving the health of our people.

How did you connect with the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse, and why were you excited to be part of the Tech Time Workshops?

We had had Tech Time out at our school the year before, and several of my students spoke to me about it.

I was teaching Year 7 ICT and was, at that stage, planning the new Digital Technologies curriculum for 2017. I saw immediate connections between the Tech Time Workshops and the curriculum.

Why do you think it's so important to provide young people with the opportunity to develop their skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM)?

I've always been of the mind that students should have the opportunity to explore, play, and have fun with their learning. Innovative thinking skills stem from these base skills.

STEAM gives students that opportunity as it allows them to "think outside the box", collaborate with peers and mentors, and problem solve solutions.

What do you think are some of the most valuable skills that young people are gaining from their involvement in the Tech Time workshops?

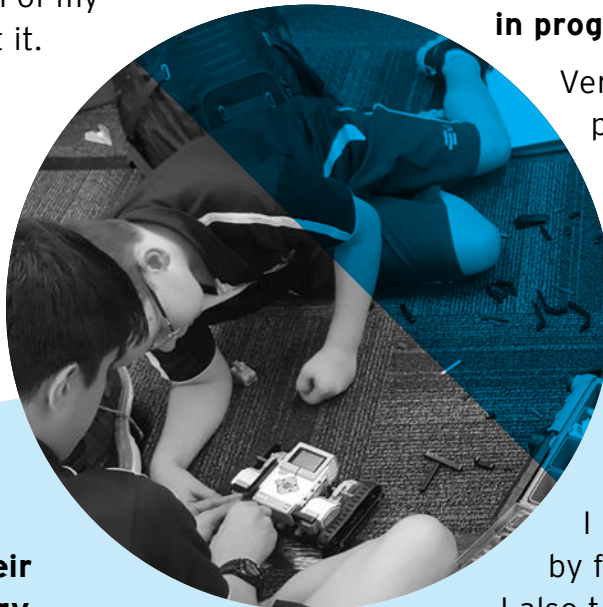
If I had to say the top three, they would be collaboration, innovation, and problem solving. These skills are skills for life beyond school. Each session, the students and I unpack what they learned and it is always positive. They can't wait to get back to the Clubhouse to continue on their work!

Do you think it's particularly important that we see more young women taking part in programs such as this?

Very much so. I did not have a program like this in school and wish I had. I see female students wanting to take up STEAM subjects, but with too few female teachers, it can be daunting.

Since taking over ICT and running DigiTech classes, I have seen a 50% take up by female students in Year 8.

I also taught them in Year 7, and have been told that the reason they kept going with the subject is because I am running it - a female can do these things too.



CANBERRA YOUTH VOICES PROGRAM

The Canberra Youth Voices (CYV) program is a series of media skills workshops delivered over ten weeks to high school students. In term one, the Youth Engagement team ran the CYV Program with 12 students from Calwell High School. The program focused on the technical side of filming through the medium of short films.

The first two weeks were spent getting to know each other, looking at some short films, having discussions about what makes them interesting and learning some filming techniques to really make a short film stand out. By week four, students had split into smaller groups and started to write scripts, story boards, and filming specifics. The students were encouraged to try new techniques and camera angles to make sure the setting matched the tone of the video.

Over weeks five and six, the students filmed their short films. We had one murder mystery film and one superhero film, featuring 'Slightly Above Average Man'.

Through the filming we saw some great techniques on display from floor level shots, to

over the shoulder conflict shots, dolly zooms to faded focus and more!

Week seven was editing week, and it was great to see students really thinking out the flow of their short films. There were some great cuts and edits that really made the video flow smoothly. Keep your eye out on our social media accounts where we'll share their videos once they become available on YouTube!

For the final week of the program, we had a celebration and watched the short films that had been created. We also discussed ways to further enhance their short films, looked at some filming equipment that they would like to try out, and watched some more short films.

It was a great program to run with the participants having a lot of fun, making short films, and wanting to participate again. We are planning on running another CYV program in semester two so keep your eyes out for more information about that!

MAKING AN IMPACT: FRANCES CRIMMINS LAUNCHED THE 2ND CLUBHOUSE IMPACT REPORT.

A little over two years ago, YWCA Canberra took a big leap in partnership with Richardson Primary School, to open the ACT's first ever Clubhouse. Based on the global Clubhouse model, which was founded in Boston in 1993, we opened a free, out-of-school learning space that connects young people in Tuggeranong with access to the latest in technology, and the mentoring and support needed to grow their skills in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

It was a bold move - the Clubhouse model relies on corporate and philanthropic funding to maintain the space, provide the technology and other supplies, and to support the operational requirements of the program. We worked hard to build a network of partners combining industry, government and philanthropic organisations, and together we created a vibrant, inclusive space that has grown beyond our imagination.

When we opened our doors officially in October 2014, our membership was small, but growing, and we could only imagine the impact the Clubhouse would have on the local community. Now, as we launch our 2016 Clubhouse Impact Report, it's clear to me how far we have come, and how incredible the growth in our Clubhouse members' skills and ability is.



In just two years, we have grown our membership to over 180 young people in the Tuggeranong region. Of those members, many have had the opportunity to connect with the STEAM industry through work experience, excursions and mentorship.

Take, for example, one of our first Clubhouse members, Cameron. From his very first visits to the Clubhouse, it was clear that Cameron has a keen natural ability in photography. Within months, his stunning photos of the local environment were gracing the Clubhouse's walls, and eliciting compliments from our visitors.

In his time at the Clubhouse, Cameron has had the chance to engage with work experience through the creative agency, Coordinate, photographing and filming local ice-hockey team, CBR Brave. As his skills have grown, Cameron has also taken on a leadership role within the Clubhouse, mentoring younger members and contributing to the culture and inclusiveness of the space.

It has been wonderful to see Cameron's skills and confidence grow from participating in the Clubhouse. He is just one example of the impact of passion learning in a supportive environment.

The outcomes from our Clubhouse evaluations reinforce the importance of the Clubhouse model in supporting our members to gain

skills and to further engage with learning and education. In 2016, 76 per cent of members said that coming to the Clubhouse has made them feel happier, and agreed that they felt they were an important member of the Clubhouse. 90.5 per cent of Clubhouse members agreed with the statement "I know if I work hard enough I can solve almost any problem that I have."

Over the past 12 months, our Clubhouse team has worked hard to extend this impact to the broader community. We have increased our school outreach, and worked with Lake Tuggeranong College to support a cohort of students to complete their education through the Big Picture program, a special photography course hosted through Manuka Arts Centre.

We also hosted the first ever 'Tech Time Workshops', which brought together a group of enthusiastic girls to learn the basics of robotics, and compete in a special robot challenge, culminating in a public competition at the Tuggeranong Hyperdome.

These initiatives are outlined in the 2016 Clubhouse Impact Report, where you can also meet our Clubhouse members, hear from our Clubhouse Ambassadors and learn more about our objectives and outcomes. I'm personally very proud of the achievements of the Clubhouse to date, and would like to acknowledge the commitment and contributions of YWCA Canberra's Community Services team in bringing this program to life.

On behalf of the YWCA Canberra and Clubhouse team, I would also like to thank all our partners, supporters, donors and members for their contributions this year. We can't wait to see what next year brings for the Clubhouse!

To find out more about the Clubhouse, and how you or your organisation can get involved, email **Joanna Le, Director of Communication, Advocacy and Fundraising** at Joanna.Le@ywca-canberra.org.au, or sign up to the Clubhouse Newsletter!



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 Communication, Advocacy and Fundraising, via joanna.le@ywca-canberra.org.au or 02 6175 9900

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