



The Clubhouse

WHERE TECHNOLOGY MEETS IMAGINATION

NOVEMBER 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

It has been an exciting past few months at the Clubhouse, with a range of events, activities and projects being created.

Our members produced some incredible projects during the spring school holiday program, including a creative A-Z photography challenge, where we took 26 photographs of intricate Lego sculptures representing each letter of the alphabet. We also experimented with tie-dyeing and documenting some beautiful creations with the digital SLR cameras. The photographs were fantastic, showcasing very vibrant and creative processes.

This term we also ran the Upcycled Skate Program with Calwell High School. Upcycling is the idea of turning something that would otherwise be thrown away into something with a renewed purpose.

Young people had access to a range of old skateboard decks, and were given the opportunity to create something new and innovative. It was great to see them work collaboratively with each other to produce some terrific examples of upcycling, including assembling an analogue clock, and building an adult sized chair using the skateboard decks.

We were really impressed with young people's enthusiasm for the program, with one participant voluntarily bringing in their own unused skateboard decks from home. They worked hard to build this chair, using an old chair frame, screws and saddles. The participant described the upcycled chair as "a commemorative, practical, and functional ode to their past skateboards and the history and memories that went along with them."

Many young people chose to stay long after the program finished to continue working on their projects during the Clubhouse after-

school open hours. The participants were very excited to have the opportunity to be able to access materials and ideas from the Clubhouse that they had never considered before.

Another exciting event that happened recently was our end of financial year fundraising appeal, which has allowed us to upgrade existing equipment and provide access to new technologies in the Clubhouse.

With some of this funding, we began a computer building workshop with Clubhouse members, which focused on the process of selecting, purchasing, and putting together computer parts to create new systems. The workshop was predominately skills based, and centred on research, STEAM, and budgeting. With a list of requirements for new computers for the Clubhouse, members researched different computer parts and came up with a suggested build that fit within the designated budget. This build has since been ordered and the parts will soon be assembled, so we'll have a whole set of new computers, planned, selected, and built by Clubhouse members!

We have also ordered a range of new technologies to add to our Clubhouse kit, so keep your eyes out on our social media for unboxing videos, photographs, and stories!



LACH HOWARTH
CLUBHOUSE
COORDINATOR

JOIN US TO LAUNCH THE THIRD YWCA CANBERRA CLUBHOUSE IMPACT REPORT IN CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND PHILANTHROPY PARTNERSHIPS WEEK.

When: Tuesday, 21 November, 12:30-2pm

Where: YWCA Canberra Clubhouse
Richardson Primary School
May Gibbs Close, Richardson

Who: friends, supporters, community members,
and partners of the Clubhouse

RSVP: Lydia.randall@ywca-canberra.org.au



YWCA
CANBERRA



GOVERNMENT VISITS TO CLUBHOUSE

Following the launch of the Clubhouse impact report earlier this year, a number of MLAs and Ministers accepted our invitation to visit the Clubhouse and see first-hand the impact of this program on young people's lives in the Tuggeranong region.

VIP visitors including Minister for Youth and Children Rachel Stephen-Smith enjoyed a tour, led by Frances Crimmins and Clubhouse Coordinator Lachlan Howarth. The tour enabled decision makers to interact with some of the clubhouse members, explore the technology, and discuss the unique approach of the Clubhouse in addressing the digital divide.



The team have since praised the Clubhouse in achieving a multi-stakeholder model that successfully brought together community, business and government to achieve demonstrable impact.

YWCA Canberra believes that central to this strategy should be an overarching commitment to digital inclusion, and a community-based approach to digital skill-building. We look forward

The tours have proved to be a crucial opportunity to forge relationships across Government: we were later approached by the Chief Minister's office to facilitate a delegation of staff who were interested in learning from the Clubhouse model as they embark on developing the new ACT Smart Cities Strategy.

to working with the ACT Government in the future to build on the Clubhouse's success as we look towards scaling up our impact and expanding to other digitally excluded areas in the ACT.

SPOTLIGHT ON A CLUBHOUSE MEMBER

Ella, aged 14, has been a regular Clubhouse member for almost three years, with a keen interest in origami and programming.

During her time as a Clubhouse member, Ella has been provided with the support and freedom to explore, create, and play in a safe environment that promotes her participation in, and mastering of STEAM activities.

Recently, Ella has developed an interest in coding, animation, game design, and a programming language called [Scratch](#), which is block-based. Her interests have translated into tangible skills and a new-found confidence, which have been developed through her peer mentoring and leadership in the Clubhouse, and available STEAM-based workshops.

Why do you come to the Clubhouse?

It's fun because you can create stuff like



origami, Lego, or use the computer.

What makes you proud to be a Clubhouse member?

I can come and relax at the Clubhouse after school.

What's your favourite thing to use at the Clubhouse?

To go on Scratch and do origami.

What's the best thing you've created so far?

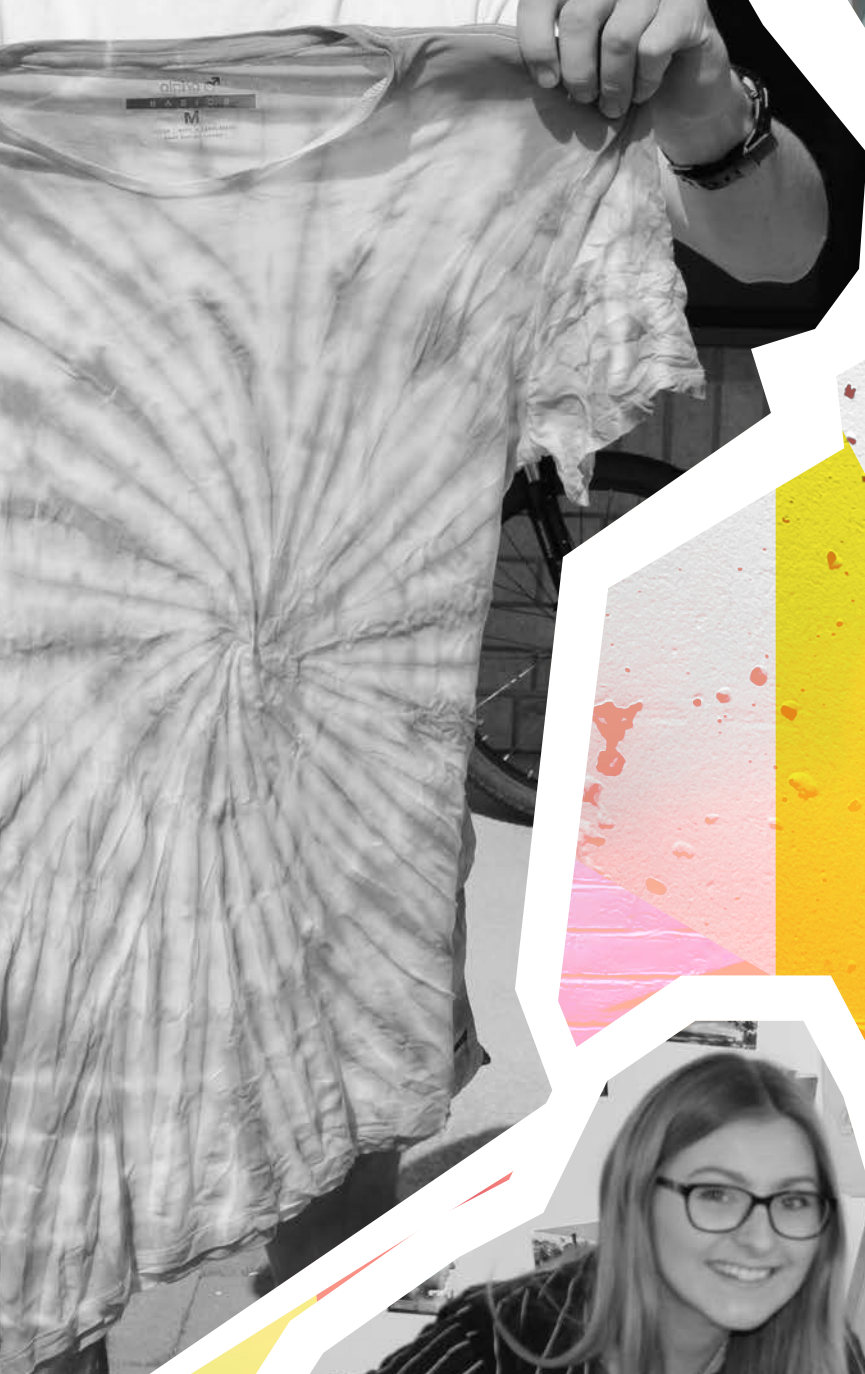
I've created a game on Scratch called Unicorn Dodgeball.

What's something new you'd like to see the Clubhouse get?

More Minecraft!



"Young people had access to a range of old skateboard decks, and were given the opportunity to create something new and innovative. It was great to see them work collaboratively with each other to produce some terrific examples of upcycling, including assembling an analogue clock, and building an adult sized chair using the skateboard decks."



MEET A TEAM MEMBER: AOIFE

Tell us about your role at YWCA Canberra

I am a part-time Youth Engagement Officer. In my role, I run our drop-in centre, engage in casework with young people in need, co-facilitate our women's leadership program Y-Aspire, and work at the Clubhouse on High School Day.

What is your favourite thing about the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse?

I love getting to see young people express themselves through music, art, and technology. I am constantly amazed at all the techy programs the young people know how to use on the computers!

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

You can usually find me playing Playstation, playing with my pets, going on coast trips, and watching *The Simpsons*.

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

I am definitely most proud about being a part of our LGBTQIA+ and Allies Prom, which saw 159 young people come together to experience a fun and safe night that they will never forget!

What makes you proud to work at YWCA Canberra?

My pride in YWCA Canberra stems from being a part of an organisation that is so committed to improving the lives of communities in need. The Y consistently demonstrates its commitment to the community, and most recently this was shown through the *Wear Rainbow Day to Work Day*, held on Friday 29 September. On this day, all staff members from all of the offices around Canberra, dressed in rainbow colours to show solidarity with its LGBTQIA+ staff, clients, and the wider community. This meant more to me than I can ever hope to articulate.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE IMPACT: PARTNER PROFILE

Richardson Primary School is a key partner and supporter of the Clubhouse since its establishment in 2014.

We spoke to Richardson Primary School Principal Anna Wilson, to find out what the Clubhouse means to her, and why she believes that it's crucial to provide opportunities for young people to collaborate, communicate, and think critically, and ensure they equipped for the jobs of the future.

Tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm new to Richardson Primary School as of this year. Before Richardson, I was the Deputy Principal at Red Hill Primary School for eight years. The biggest difference between the two schools is the size. At Richardson, we have about 200 students with seven classes, and at Red Hill there were about 700 students

with 24 classes. On my first couple of days at Richardson, I just kept looking around wondering where all the kids were!

I've been teaching for 22 years and began my career in NSW, teaching in a number of schools in and around the Queanbeyan area. In 2000, I came across to the ACT system as a teacher on a 5/6 class at Charles Conder



Primary School. This year I realised that I'd been teaching for quite a while when I discovered that one of our lovely Richardson parents was actually a previous student of mine.

I am also a mother to four amazing humans; three boys aged 20, 11, and six, and a 13-year-old girl. My favourite meal would have to be a BBQ with a medium rare rump steak, salad, and potato bake. When I'm not at work, I keep myself busy with lots of professional reading, shopping, and learning how to become a better boxer.



What do you think is the most valuable aspect of the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse?

I think the most important aspect of the YWCA Canberra Clubhouse is that it provides our community's young people with the opportunity to explore many aspects technology and engineering, and apply those skills to interesting problems and activities. This includes developing their artistic and creative side as well.

The Clubhouse provides a safe and stimulating environment with excellent role models. It allows our young people to experiment with being a leader, and to also help others. For our students who don't have access to technology at home, it provides them with equipment to help them develop and refine their skills and capacity. The Clubhouse brings our young people together to experience ways to collaborate and learn.

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)?

It's vitally important as it's no longer just about the three R's. To be successful in this day and age, our young people need certain dispositions, learning, and innovation skills. Increasingly, these skills are being recognised

as the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not.

The Clubhouse provides opportunities for our young people to collaborate, communicate, and to thinking critically and creatively, as well as ensuring they are not left behind in the digital revolution as they engage with technology in a meaningful way.

What do you think are some of the most important skills that young people are gaining from their involvement in the Clubhouse?

The general capabilities that students develop through their engagement with the Clubhouse, through supported STEAM learning, allows them to practise skills in a meaningful and contextual way the following learner attributes essential for success in the 21st century. Our young people become knowledgeable, open minded, inquirers, communicators, risk takers, and reflective thinkers through their participation in the Clubhouse.

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

I think that girls' participation in programs such as this, is a great way to smash the stereotypical idea that people involved in STEAM related occupations are male. As a principal, it warms my heart that the Clubhouse encourages broad participation, which no doubt will elevate the visibility of women in STEAM professions. It shows girls that anything is possible, and develops exceptional future female role models.



WHAT OUR PARTNERS DO

The sustainability and success of the YWCA Canberra 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.

We are proud that our partners span the government, private, and community sectors - together we are making an incredible impact on young people's lives!

To find out how your organisation can get involved as a partner, please contact Joanna Le, Director of Communication, Advocacy and Fundraising at joanna.le@ywca-canberra.org.au

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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