

Round about the NT



ISSN 1440-2122 ~ THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUTH MINISTER'S ROUND TABLE OF YOUNG TERRITORIANS ~ VOLUME 10, NO.1 ~ MARCH 2006

Chair and Vice Chair's Report - Meeting One



Chair - Vanessa Matsen

25 – 26 February

Meeting One began at the Free Spirit Resort - where we all gathered to catch the bus down to Mt Bundy Station. Everyone seemed a little dreary and sleepy eyed at first. As Vicki said, "that was the quietest bus trip ever".

It wasn't until a few group activities later that everyone had started to come out of their shell and wake up a little more. Being asked to describe what animal you most felt like that day was interesting. We had a variety of responses such as dogs, cats and sloths...a very interesting mix to have in one small room.

On day one we had a lot of team building exercises which were held at the Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre. Everyone seemed to enjoy these activities immensely – especially the low and high ropes obstacle courses which proved to be challenging to even the most athletic members of the Round Table. I am sure Vicki also got some great video footage from that afternoon.

Over the weekend we were honoured by the presence of many amazing and wonderfully talented people. They shared their knowledge and words of wisdom with us on topics concerning a wide variety of issues such as media training, National Youth Week and what being on the Round Table is all about.

We branched off into our project groups to discuss what we would work on for the year ahead. This was a fantastic exercise as it also gave us the opportunity to get to know the members on our teams a lot better.

Throughout the weekend it was strongly emphasised that a lot of help and support would be available from the Office of Youth Affairs. This was beneficial to everyone – knowing that we would not be alone facing the challenges to come during 2006.

There were so many people from such a wide variety of locations and backgrounds. It was great to see a real melting pot of different personalities all brought together with the common interest being the Round Table.

All in all, the weekend was fantastic. I can't think of one negative thing about it. It was definitely worthwhile attending and I would encourage anyone thinking about applying for the Round Table to do it. I am confident that all of the people I met at the weekend will become friends for life. It's not often these days that I meet people and can honestly say that. I am already looking forward to the next time we meet again as a group. In the meantime, I am sure we will all be kept busy focusing on our day to day tasks as well as our community interest projects. The Round Table for me (and I am sure the others as well) has enhanced my life. 2006 will be one that I will not forget, that I am already sure of!



Vice Chair - Justin Murphy



The Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians for 2006 with Community Engagement Division Director, Mr Paul Rajan.



Youth Minister's 2006 Round Table of Young Territorians

Hannah Watts

Region: DARWIN

Age: 25



G'day, Hannah here! I'm one of those tourists who came to the Territory for a holiday and never left...it's been six years now, and I can't imagine calling any other place home!

I have been actively involved in youth work in Darwin since 2001, and enjoy working with young people and their families from all walks of life. I am a Youth and Kids Pastor at Abundant Life Christian Church, and I also work in Education alongside young people with behaviour management issues.

This year, as a member of the Round Table, I am looking forward to giving other young people a voice in the decisions and policies that are made which affect their everyday lives.

David Johnson

Region: DARWIN

Age: 22



I have taken up the challenge of the Youth Minister's Round Table to voice not only my opinions directly to Government but people I come in contact with through my line of work.

Throughout my trials and tribulations working with many Indigenous people in the legal system I feel I have an obligation to bring the Government's attention to the pitfalls and grey areas in which many young Territorians are vulnerable, from Police and Youth relationships, to looking into incarcerations within psychiatric institutions. I will voice the concerns of those people and advocate for change, strongly. I look forward to working with the Round Table to bring many issues to the Government's attention.

Louisa Bayne

Region: JABIRU

Age: 17



Hello everybody, I am 17 years old and my name is Louisa Agnes Bayne. I go to Jabiru Area School. I'm in Year 12 and I have lived in the Kakadu National Park all my life and love every minute of it. Kinda!

When I leave school I want to backpack around Europe, South and North America and Asia. When I finish travelling I want to study to be a nurse then a midwife.

I currently work as a waitress/bartender at Coinda Lodge. I joined the Round Table because I want to help the youth in my community and get their voices heard.

I have been the chairperson of the Kakadu Youth Committee for the last two years and have helped set up the youth centre here in Jabiru. I love working and helping the youth of my community. At times it is hard but we get through it all.

Kevin Kadirgamar

Region: DARWIN

Age: 17



Heyaz everyone I'm Kevin, and I'm currently doing Year 12 at Casuarina Senior College. I live in Karama and I've been in the rocking town of Darwin for the last three years. In these few years, I've had the privilege of getting to know some truly awesome young people through my involvement in various organisations in the Territory such as School SRCs, the United Nations Youth Association, the Multilingual Broadcasting Council of the NT etc ... I'm also into radio broadcasting and I've hosted 'Youtharama' (a Youth music show) at Radio Larrakia 94.5 FM (if you've heard of DJ KJ - that's me!!)

What I've gathered about the fantastic youth of the Top End is that we're a bunch of really talented, cool folks with enormous potential. That's why I'm on the Round Table - to make sure that we get every opportunity to 'shine like the stars we are' (love that song - Shine by Shannon Noll lol) I'm really looking forward to working with our brilliant T.E.A.M*, and getting to know as many NT youth as I can while I'm on the Round Table.

Remember: Change starts with us!

*By the way, in my mind:T.E.A.M = Together Everyone Achieves More! So let's do it!

Vanessa Matsen - Chair

Region: PALMERSTON

Age: 24



Hi my name is Vanessa Matsen. I am 23 years old. I have a two year old daughter and I live in Bakewell, Palmerston. I work as a Personal Assistant to an Operations Manager at a gold mine south of Darwin.

I applied for the Round Table so that I could help to make the community more aware of the employment and training issues affecting young women throughout the whole of the NT. I am keen to see more women return to work or study after having a baby - in particular, young single mothers.

I have a passion for increasing young women's confidence and motivation levels, helping them to 'be the best that they can be'. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my daughter, family and friends. I am currently studying Business Management through CDU. After this, I would like to study Human Resources. I believe strongly in the value of education and the opportunities that can arise as a result of a good one.

Also, I am looking forward to the year ahead and what it holds. To be able to mix with such a diverse group of people from a variety of ages, locations, and background is a one off opportunity. I am confident that I will form friendships with people that will last a lifetime. There is so much to be gained as a result of being on the Round Table. I have nothing but positive enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Kelsey Rodda

Region: ALICE SPRINGS

Age: 21



Hello there, my name is Kelsey Rodda. I am 21 years old and have lived in Alice Springs all my life.

I work in the Office of Central Australia in the Media and Communications Unit.

I enjoy playing netball, listening to music and watching TV. I am involved in the world's greatest (well to me it is!) motor sport event, the Finke Desert Race, which also helps to keep me busy.

Alice Springs is one of the best places to live and the people really make the town what it is, great!

I am looking forward to everything I will 'encounter' as a member of the Youth Minister's Round Table and hope to represent the views of youth in Alice and to show just how talented and committed we are!

Annalise Durilla

Region: ALYANGULA

Age: 22



Hello my name is Annalise Durilla and I am a youth worker with the Youth Development Unit. I am 22 years old. I come from a small Island called Groote Eylandt. I enjoy working with youth and their issues, that's why I joined the 2006 Round Table.

Rose Sadleir

Region: NHULUNBUY

Age: 16



Hey, my name is Rose and I enjoy most water sports, long walks on the beach, romantic picnics, performing Spicks and Specks with my fellow Round Table members and throwing Tupperware parties with my friend Chee ... Haha

Anyway onto the serious stuff I was born and bred in North Queensland, I lived in Mooloolaba for a year and I have lived in Nhulunbuy for the past four years. I am currently completing Year 12 and I am 16 years old.

I host my own radio show (on 106.9 Gove FM) and I am extremely passionate about music, having fun, my friends, youth issues, and Nhulunbuy as a whole.

I feel extremely privileged and eager to be part of the 2006 Round Table as it is an excellent opportunity not only to express my opinions but also to have them heard. I hope to make some worthwhile friendships and contributions to the youth of the NT throughout my year as a Round Table representative.

Keep on trucking

Justin Murphy - Vice Chair

Region: DARWIN

Age: 20



Howdy. I'm Justin Murphy from Darwin and I work at AFL Northern Territory as the East Arnhem and Rural Development Manager. Being 20, it is an advantage when I travel to Indigenous communities because I can relate well with the young people.

I have been in the Territory for five years and absolutely love the place.

There are many issues on the minds of young Territorians and I am very grateful to be selected as their voice to our Government. In conjunction with OYA and other Round Table members I can ensure it will be a very productive year.

PS – Usually I shave before important photos.

Tammy-Jane Reece

Region: PALMERSTON

Age: 16



Hi my name is Tammy-Jane Reece and I'm 16 years old and currently studying Year 12 at Casuarina Senior College. I love reading, talking and shopping. I feel honoured to be on the Round Table this year with such a diverse group of people who also have such a diverse range of issues. Being a member of the Round Table it gives me a chance to give something back to the Territory no matter how small it is. "Remember the mighty oak was once a small seed."

Perri Fletcher

Region: KATHERINE

Age: 16



Heya everybody, my name's Perri Fletcher and I'm currently a Year 11 student at Katherine High School (KHS) and obviously the rep for Katherine this year. The reason I applied (and was successfully selected) for the Youth Minister's Round Table of Young Territorians was because I wish to help my fellow peers become more aware of what's going on in the world today and to show the youth of Katherine that it's ok to speak up and have your concerns heard. I'd also like to help the NT Government stress the importance of issues such as: health and well-being, education, employment, decision making, development of skills and to help create a safe and secure community! A little more about myself is that I'm a Senior Executive at KHS and love anything to do with youth and one day hope to become a Counselling Psychologist (or Chief Minister)! My moral is "Education is the key to life". So live your lives to the fullest and Chee stop throwing paper balls at me!

Learn from Yesterday, Live for Today and Strive for Tomorrow!

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Jaimie McIntyre

Region: DARWIN RURAL

Age: 15

Hello my name is Jaimie McIntyre and I am 15 years of age, the youngest member of the group. I was born in Darwin and currently attend Kormilda College where I am undertaking Years 11 and 12 as a day student. For years 8, 9 and 10, I was a boarder at Kormilda College because my mum was living and working in Central Australia. At the end of Year 12 I hope to study criminology or join either the NT Police Force or the Federal Police Force (it just depends on my results!!!).

When I am not at Kormilda or studying at home I enjoy making fruit smoothies, eating Allen's "Strawberry Cream" lollies, riding my motorbike, listening to music, playing keyboard and watching TV and going to the movies with my mates.

The reason I applied for the 2006 Round Table is because I want to create a fairer Territory for Aboriginal people to live in, particularly Aboriginal youth. I want petrol sniffing to stop and I want to see healthy foods in community stores, not fried food, lollies and coke. I want to see more houses on communities for Aboriginal people. This will help with the overcrowding situation. I have lived on Aboriginal communities in the Top End, Central Australia, the Cape York Peninsula and the South Australian Pit Lands but I have travelled to many more communities, seeing some very terrible and distressing things. I want to share this knowledge with my Youth Round Table colleagues in an attempt to make the Territory a better place for my Aboriginal friends and their families.

Thanks for the opportunity.



Lisa Deveraux

Region: BATCHELOR

Age: 21

Hello, my name is Lisa Deveraux. I am 21 years old and I have lived in Batchelor for the last 18 years. The population in Batchelor is about 500-600 people. All my school years were at Batchelor Area School but it sux cause it only goes up to year 10.

I enjoy mustering and I love horse riding. I own a horse in Batchelor and when the rodeos are on I enjoy going to watch them as well. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in the Round Table and learning a lot of new things.



Robbie Dalton

Region: PALMERSTON

Age: 23

Hi, I'm Robbie Dalton. I'm from Palmerston but have spent time all over the NT.

I am currently working in the Department of the Chief Minister as a graduate (Bachelor of Arts). I'm into all football codes (except soccer).

The Territory is a great place. There is plenty of work to be done though, and I think the 2006 Round Table can work with other young people effectively to make a difference.

Don't be afraid to put your voice forward, it's why we are here.



Emily Ryan

Region: ALICE SPRINGS

Age: 16

Hi, I'm Emily Ryan and I'm 16. I live in Alice Springs (have all my life), and I'm currently in Year 11.

My interests are visual arts, athletics and music and my latest passion is being one of the lucky members of the 2006 Round Table. I hope to make a difference in the Territory and in my community, and plan to use my position on the Round Table to my own and other youth around the Territory's advantage!

I look forward to the year ahead and to work with all the awesome people also involved with the Round Table, who I've only just met.



Chee Lean

Region: TENNANT CREEK

Age: 25

Hi there, my name is Chee. I'm 25 years old and I live in Tennant Creek. I'm the School Based Police Officer there and I will do my best to bring up issues on behalf of the young people in Tennant for discussion at the Round Table.

I am looking forward to working with the other members throughout the year to get their ideas and perspectives on issues.

My star sign is Capricorn and I enjoy sunset walks along the beach.

