

Round about the NT



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Chair's Report - Meeting Three

Overview - 26 – 27 August 2006

This weekend, like all the others, was another action packed two days. On day one all members met at the Free Spirit Resort – the location for this meeting.

Mid morning, Ms Peta Preo, Director, People and Development, Department of Corporate and Information Services came to visit us. She gave us back the results from our Team Management Profiles. We had originally filled them out at the last meeting. Team Management Profiles are designed to provide you with information about your work preferences. It is a starting point for consideration and discussion of how you approach your work and your interactions with others in the workplace.

Mr John Glasby – A/Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives and Mr Robert Picton – Ministerial Advisor Education, Middle Years Schooling, also came to speak to us about the Middle Years Plan – how and why it came about, what is being done about it at the moment, research done thus far by people such as Gregor Ramsay. After they had visited I was left feeling confident that the future of the Territory's education system is in good hands – so long as there are people as passionate about it as John and Robert – the future is looking very bright for young people of the NT when it comes to schooling.

Barbara Kapser - B.A Psych. (Hons). Assoc. MAPS – to present a workshop on Presentation Skills Training. She works as a Organisational Services Consultant and Psychologist with EAS (Employee Assistance Service). At the end of the workshop we were able to identify and remove barriers to effective communication, identify various visual and audio aids and manage nerves better. Her visit was most appreciated as we are due to give presentations at the next meeting (the big one!)

Day two was another busy day. Steven Skov, Public Health Physician, came to speak to us about the Road Safety Taskforce and the changes afoot regarding young drivers and licensing in the Territory. Mr Skov explored the concept of novice drivers in the NT, too many crashes and what to do about it. Mr Skov has written an interesting paper illustrating the problems with our current system and that it is time for changes to our licensing system and driver education strategies. For anyone interested, a copy of this paper can be obtained from the Office of Youth Affairs.

Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA, Minister for Young Territorians arrived at the meeting around mid morning. We presented updates on our team and individual projects and also highlighted regional issues of concern and what certain members are planning to do to help eliminate some of these problems. For example, Hannah is interested in suicide training and youth drop in centres, Kevin is keen to see some resolution of the rural bus problem that students from Casuarina Senior College and other Darwin high schools face. Emily is interested in promoting activities and Tammy and Emily are keen advocates of the breakfast program currently being undertaken at OLSH in Alice Springs. After lunch we worked on our community based projects and made our video messages which will be shown at the next meeting and to the next lot of people doing the 2007 Round Table. The end is nigh and we all have a lot of work to do at the moment but we will get there. We are young and motivated individuals, together or alone we can do anything – we just have to put our mind to it. As Deb told me this weekend, no matter how bad you think it is, you can't fail if you have a go. To not attempt is when you fail.



Chair - Vanessa Matsen and daughter Leilani



Garma Festival

Thirteen young people from Jabiru Area School went to Garma. Garma is a major Aboriginal cultural festival which is held in North East Arnhem Land about half an hour from Gove. We were away from the 3 to 10 August (includes two days driving). We went because five year 12 students including myself were invited to give a speech to uni lecturers about why we are still in school and furthering our education. We also attended the youth forum which was very good, we wrote our own songs and did lino cuts which was awesome. We had heaps of fun.

Louisa



L-R, Steve Devery, Sampson Henry, Joe Nagawalli, Sean Spicer, Mudaway Yunupingu, Jethro Guymala, Angus Nagwalli, Will Blake, Lorraine White, Shane Franey, Jarred Franey, Louisa Bayne, Charlotte Bayne and Andree Rice.

National Youth Leadership Workshop

David Johnson from the Safe and Secure Communities team attended the National Indigenous Youth Leadership Workshop held in Sydney, 7-9 August 2006. The workshop was facilitated by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. The workshop consisted of young Indigenous leaders from across the country discussing issues around:

- Australian Government reforms in Indigenous affairs.
- Youth leadership development.
- Relevant youth issues in today's societies.



David Johnson

The workshop was invaluable as it gave participants the opportunity to discuss what they have achieved, learnt, skills acquired and how they contribute to their community as a leader.

Discussion further took place on how the participants as leaders can sustain their efforts and continue to build on their leadership skills. For further information contact the Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination on 1800 202 366.

David

Mind Your Mind Evaluation Team

Hope you are doing gr8 and looking after your minds.

The Mind your Mind team (for those who are not aware) is reviewing a mental health information kit called Mind your Mind. The kit is a series of fact sheets on how to deal with mental health issues (relationships, bullying etc). We've sent out surveys to schools, so have your say. Remember: a simple thing like filling out a survey could lead to a big change for the better!

Our members have once again involved themselves in community events like the YMCA Youth Parliament opening, a National UN Conference and Bass-in-the-Grass. Tammy-Jane is now in the driver's seat as Team Coordinator, and is doing a great job steering us through the last few months left of our term. Busy Dave was missed at our third meeting but we're all geared up for the months ahead!

Having Fun and Developing New Skills Team

Back again
We are team Fun
To report to you
The work we've done

We've made our surveys
And will hand them out
For you to fill in
Let's hear your shout

What you think is fun
And the things you like to do
Are the things we need to hear
about
So give us a clue

You'll see our surveys round
In your school and up town
So grab one if you can
And get your ideas down!

If you want your voices heard
And your opinions to matter
Come on NT youth
Our survey inbox needs to be fatter

Cheers

P.S Thanks for the rhyming words
Robbie
P.P.S Missed you Kels and Rose!

Growing Regions Conference

The Growing Regions Conference, held in July 2006, attracted over 300 delegates from Australia and overseas. The Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) hosted the Conference over five days in Brisbane. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend on a DOTARS Youth Scholarship.

Aside from the fascinating line up of presenters at the conference, the most important thing that I gained from the Growing Regions Conference was the variety of networks and contacts that I made. These include current and future regional leaders who are at the forefront of thinking about both regional and Indigenous issues in both an Australian and international context.

The DOTARS Regional Youth Scholarship holders were an amazing group of people who really do care about the future of the regions they come from, and I thank both them and the DOTARS staff, Tom Sally and Aysha for a fantastic experience.

Robbie

Leadership and Public Speaking Program

Young women on Groote Eylandt have just started a public speaking program which is run by the Youth Development Unit team. The course starts at 10.00am every Wednesday at the Angurugu Library and finishes at 2.30pm.

The program will help young people to build up confidence and will help them in finding or looking for a job. More confidence will also help young women to talk up at meetings, use services and also to read and write in both languages (English and Andilyakwa).

There will also be a boys group to come! Thank you Elizabeth very much for your help.

Annalise Durilla

Sexuality Education

The Health and Wellbeing team, comprised of Justin Murphy, Perri Fletcher, Robbie Dalton, and myself, have combined our powers into one project and are researching the attitudes and perceptions of Territorians towards sexuality education.

We have recently distributed three surveys across the Territory: one for young people, one for teachers and education providers, and one for parents and carers. We are investigating who each group see as the primary sexuality educators for young people, how comfortable they feel about discussing these issues, and how they perceive sexuality education can be improved.

Each member of our team sees this as a highly important issue that affects many young Territorians. The results of poor or no sexuality education can be long lasting, and affect not just young people, but entire families and communities.

I feel privileged to be a part of such a fantastic team, and am grateful to have the opportunity to work on a project that has the potential to improve the health and wellbeing of not just the youth of today, but also of future young Territorians.

Hannah Watts
Team Coordinator



Attendees of the Growing Your Regions Conference



L-R, Annalise Durilla, Elizabeth Caldwell, Melanie McKenzie and Alana Murrungun



The Health and Wellbeing Team: Hannah Watts and Perri Fletcher (above), Justin Murphy and Robbie Dalton (below)



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45th National United Nations Youth Conference

The week 9 - 16 July 2006 saw much of the world in terror and turmoil. The countless casualties of the attacks on the Mumbai public transport, and the Israel – Lebanon crisis dominated the media around the world.

In the same week, in another corner of the world, eighty young people from around Australia and New Zealand gathered together for the 45th National United Nations Youth Conference (UNYC), under the theme: Peace – It's in our hands. The delegates were all senior secondary school students, who were chosen to attend the conference on the basis of their skills in public speaking, negotiating, research, social and leadership skills. However, the most profound element they shared was their passion to make a difference in today's world.

The UNYC is the premier national event organised by the United Nations Youth Association of Australia (UNYA). UNYA is one of the only Australian youth organisations run entirely by youth, for youth. It operates in every state and territory across Australia, and has been reaching thousands of school students through its events for more than forty years. The entire conference in Sydney was organised by young people below the age of twenty five.

It was my humble privilege to be part of the Northern Territory delegation to this prestigious event. Upon our arrival at Robert Menzies College, we were overwhelmed by the large number of intelligent, passionate and like-minded youth from around the continent, whom we met and built lasting friendships with throughout the week. It was only the beginning. In the next few days, we had some very inspiring world class speakers, eye – opening discussions and workshops, vigorous mock UN debates, and exciting excursions and social activities.

One of the main tasks of the conference was to compile a 'Youth Declaration'. This gave us the opportunity to voice our opinions on a range of issues: education, gender equity, Asian relations, human rights, environment, etc... A number of recommendations were made to federal and state governments on these issues. The Youth Declaration was formally presented to the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia at our formal closing, and copies were sent to the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers, and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

All these events gave us one profound message: The world needs young people who CARE, and want to make a much needed change in today's world. As the outgoing President of UNYA remarked, 'To achieve peace, there needs to be change. And to make a change, it takes a great deal of effort...' It is entirely in our hands - the youth of today to take this initiative. Through our many discussions, we came to the conclusion that wars break out due to lack of understanding and compassion in the human race. The key to peace is therefore making a united effort to understand each other. Everyone of us can take one small step towards peace – by practicing tolerance and compassion in our own communities. On a global level, governments should negotiate and compromise. The conference inspired all of us to 'get involved and be the leaders of TODAY'.

UNYC 2006 finished with a surprise dinner cruise on Darling Harbour followed by a more informal 'wacky' talent night: 'Hey Hey it's Wack'. All of this added to the many long lasting memories we shared with our fellow delegates.

Kevin



Wave Hill

On 17-18 August I attended the Wave Hill walk-off 40 year anniversary. It was one amazing celebration that reflected people's pride at what Vincent Lingiari and his people achieved back then.

Travelling to where I grew up was fantastic, made further so by how busy Kalkaringi was, and I congratulate the Kalkaringi community people and council for a successful and informative cultural experience.

Robbie