

# Round About the NT

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## Chair and Vice-Chair's Report



**Chair - Katie Chatto**

Welcome, welcome, welcome to the 2008 Youth Round Table. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you all informed of the progress of this year's members and our adventures along the way. Speaking of adventures, meeting number one kicked off with a blast. In the wee hours of Saturday morning, excitement was in the air as we piled onto the bus and took off for Lake Bennett. With great expectations of the weekend ahead and despite the initial butterflies and nervous introductions, it wasn't long before we all began to mingle and chat away. As we arrived at Lake Bennett no one would have thought that we had just met that morning as friendships and connections had already been forged and the camera had taken the first happy snaps for the year.



**Vice-Chair - Gemma Benn**

The weekend was initially about introductions and activities that would bring us together as a team. There were open discussions carried out over the vast number of youth issues in the Territory collated from an initial Youth Survey with 276 young Territorians. Every member had something to contribute, which provided really interesting food for thought. We were honoured by a visit from the Northern Territory Minister for Young Territorians, Matthew Bonson MLA, who provided insight into what was to be gained from speaking out about youth issues and brought his own experiences to the table.

Throughout the weekend we had an array of fantastic guest speakers including some of the 2007 Round Table members - Jacob Andreae, Karlie James and Nicolette Pearce. Each past member provided positive advice and an inspiring account of their individual experiences. Amy Robinson, this year's NT representative on the National Youth Week (NYW) committee, discussed the activities being held in NYW and the ways in which we could get involved to support the upcoming events. A fundamental media training session was also provided by Christine O'Leary from Creative NT Pty Ltd, which helped develop our skills in dealing with the media. All of the presentations were captivating, interactive and very much appreciated.

Team building activities throughout the weekend offered a fabulous opportunity to get to know each other, build on each of our strengths and work towards team cohesion. As we all eagerly participated in the canoeing, rock climbing and archery contests facilitated by the very enthusiastic instructors from HelpNT, you could see the deadly leadership skills of many starting to shine.

The Round Table's role is to provide a direct communication avenue between young people and the Northern Territory Government. Members complete a community-based project that focuses on young Territorian's concerns and addresses a current youth issue. Support groups have been established according to the interests of members and initial project topics proposed. At the end of the year, all of the members will present their findings and recommendations directly to the Northern Territory's Minister for Young Territorians, and other Ministers or interested parties that may be able to assist in the implementation of the project's goals.



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## continued.....

Throughout 2008, it is hoped that young Territorians will become familiar with the Round Table member in their region. This is someone you can contact to discuss issues or concerns that are affecting you and that you want to do something about. If you don't know who this person is then read further to find out!

The first weekend was a true indication that the 2008 Youth Round Table has a bunch of strong and motivated individuals who are determined to make a difference for young Territorians. As a team we are committed to being actively involved in our community, empowering young people and getting our voices heard!

### Kristian Goodacre

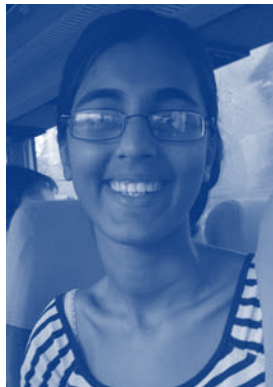
G'day y'all, My name is Kristian. I have just moved to Darwin this year from Bondi Beach. I'm stoked to have found a group of such inspirational young people who want to make a difference in their communities.



Being the new kid on the block I've got heaps to learn from all of the other members + YOU, the young guns reading this blurb! The crazy combo of my Southie-take on the Territory and YOUR involvement in Round Table projects will no doubt make a positive difference to at least a few young peoples' lives, I'm sure of it! Lookin' forward to an epic year, if u see me 'round have a yarn, I'm heLL meLLow. "Paz a Todos"

### Pritika Desai

Hi guys, I'm Pritika, recently renamed Tika. I'm 16 turning 17 soon... woo hoo. I go to CSC, an awesome school full of awesome young people. I love living in the Territory, being in such a tight community.



I've been involved in the youth community for many years and I enjoy getting involved in the organisation of youth activities. I'm part of the GRIND youth newspaper, the Indian community and I try my best to get involved in youth groups and activities in the NT. This experience has helped me get more in touch with young Territorians and has allowed me to form many different networks.

I joined the Round Table to have fun, make friends and more importantly allow the voices of young people to be heard by the Government. So far, it's been a great experience, learning about other young people, finding out their ideas and views and laughing late into the night.

With the help of all my fellow Round Table 'chubby buddies' I'm hoping to help our communities become better for you the young people.

Quote – 'Live every moment as if it were your last. Enjoy yourself!'

### Desmond Campbell

Hey, my name is Desmond Campbell. I have been lucky enough to be chosen to be on the Youth Round Table in 2008. Just a bit about myself; I was born in Darwin but grew up in Katherine, I completed year 12 at Katherine High School in 2002. A few months later I moved to Adelaide where I studied Business Admin and worked for 5 years.



I then decided it was time to move back home – NT! So I packed up my car and drove from one end of the Stuart Highway to the other end ... very long trip! After spending some time in Katherine I moved to Darwin where I started working for a Commonwealth Government agency within education. I am loving it. Being on the Youth Round Table I hope to communicate with the youth within and around my region and be their voice to help address the issues facing the youth of today. I hope you feel you can approach me with any issues, ideas, suggestions as I am willing to listen and act.

Remember my fellow colleagues and I are youth as well and face the same issues as you so let's work together to make the NT a better place for all of us.

### Emily Holyoake

Hi, G'day, How's it going? I go by Emily. I am super-stoked to be picked for the Youth Round Table. It's not very often that a bunch of young people get to decide what goes on in their Territory. So it's a pretty awesome opportunity.



A bit about me ... Hmmmm... I'm in year 12 at Taminmin High School. I am a self-confessed physics nerd. A brand new love of mine on top of that hardcore nerdy-ness, I have a big passion for music, I've been playing piano for eight years and I have been a terrible guitarist for the past three years.

Anyway, I'm really looking forward to working with an awesome group of young people to get some things going for the rest of the Territory. Cheers

## Chris Helmond

G'day. How ya going? My name's Chris but mates call me Wheezy. I'm from Tennant Creek and have lived there for about five years and love the lifestyle and people of the Territory. I especially enjoy being a youth. I



applied for the Round Table so that I could learn how to help and start something to keep youth feeling occupied and safe and overall enjoying what they've got available in their communities. I aim to learn heaps and keep up with everything that's goin' on with youth across the Territory. Hope I can make a big difference and have a choice time with these mad mob on the Round Table. Cheers.

## Tess Snowdon

Hey. My name's Tess Snowdon, and I'm one of the two Alice reps on Round Table this year, also the youngest! I'm 15 years old, have lived in Alice Springs my whole life and I'm currently attending Centralian Secondary College doing grade 11. I enjoy singing, dance, art, music, and outdoor ed. I applied to be part of the Round Table as I wanted to help bring awareness to the issues faced by the youth of the Northern Territory, and help give a voice to these problems. I'm pretty pumped to be part of the 2008 Round Table team, and hope that together we'll be able to face some of the problems in our community. Cheers :) x



## Felix Ho

Hello and thank you for reading my bio! I'm Felix and I'm thrilled to be on this year's Round Table. I grew up in Perth WA, moved up to the Northern Territory in 2007 and I am absolutely loving it!

I'm currently working as a Paramedic with St John Ambulance (NT). It's a fantastic job; there is fantastic variety in the work, the privilege of working with diverse members of the community and the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of many people.

I look forward to a great year ahead, working with a fantastic team on the Round Table. I look forward to hearing the other members' issues and concerns, listening to the stories of young people around the NT, as well as contributing my ideas. Indeed it is a very privileged and wonderful opportunity.



## Amy Sherrin

Hey, my name is Amy Sherrin and I am 18 years old. I live in Alice Springs and have for the past 12 years. I'm currently working as a Trainee Function and Event Sales Assistant but plan on moving to Adelaide in 2009 to study nursing and hopefully move back to the Territory later in life. So far my time as a member on the Round Table has been an awesome experience and a total eye opener. It's been such a great opportunity to get to know other young Territorians from all walks of life and I'm really looking forward to seeing what the year brings.



## Katie Chatto

G'day, since 2005 the Northern Territory has been my home. I am currently studying a Double Bachelor of Applied Science (Eco-tourism/ Parks, Recreation and Heritage) degree by correspondence through Charles Sturt University.



My passion for the environment and youth development programs has led me to be involved in the Leeuwin Voyages, OzGreen's YouthLEAD workshops and I am currently undertaking my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work alongside such a passionate and motivated group of young Territorians, and look forward to an exciting, action-packed year.

'Be the change you want to see in the world' – Ghandi.

## Matthew Renshaw

Hello everyone. My name is Matthew (Matty) Renshaw. I've lived in the Northern Territory since 1993 and lived at Adelaide River in the Coomalie Region after moving from Mary River.



I work for Coomalie Council in Batchelor. I have one sister, a mum and a dad.

I wanted to join the Round Table because I wanted to voice my opinion, make new friends, meet new people. I'd also like to take in as much from the Youth Round Table as possible.

I also joined the Youth Round Table because friends, family and work mates said it was a good idea and I took it on board.

## Gemma Benn

Hi there, my name is Gemma, I'm 23 and I live in the Darwin region. I've lived in the Territory for most of my life and have a strong understanding of the issues experienced by young Territorians.



I grew up in Batchelor for a number of years and attended Batchelor Area School and eventually Taminmin High School in Humpty Doo. I must admit that I don't miss the two hour bus trips that my brothers and I had to endure Monday – Friday.

When I reached year 11 I was lucky enough to move in with my best friend's family and live in Darwin. There I attended Casuarina Senior College. I ended up graduating in 2002 and headed off to Melbourne to attend uni. I completed my degree in 2006 and with my Bachelor of Arts under my belt I headed back to Darwin. I currently work in a government department and have been working in the NTPS for just over a year.

Aside from that I love sport, wish to travel around the world sooner rather than later and look forward to getting the most out of this year.

## Katharina Gerste

Hallo, wie geht's? The name is Katharina or I am better known as Kat! I was born and bred in Germany, but identify myself as a true Territorian having lived in Darwin for 12 years.



I feel so privileged to be working with the Youth Round Table this year. A big passion of mine lies within the Vocational Education and Training sector and the fact that VET is an excellent pathway to gaining a rewarding career.

A big focus of mine this year is to raise awareness of generational differences and the effects this has on employment and industry.

I'm really looking forward to working with all the other members, sharing ideas, discussing issues and generally having a good time!

I hope to gain some new skills as part of the Round Table this year through managing my own project, personal growth and professional skills.

Well I guess all I can say is watch this space to see what great stuff everyone will come up with this year. Ciao

'Intelligence plus character – that is the true goal of education' Dr Martin Luther King.

## Jack Hose



My name is Jack William Hose and I am a Territorian born and bred. Born in the Royal Darwin Hospital on the 25 February 1991. Bred in Wanguri, deep in the heart of the Northern Suburbs. I play basketball for the Tracy Village

Jets and were probably the greatest thing since sliced bread. I am currently trying to get a decent mark in year 12 at CSC. After that I intend to do some travelling around the globe and then back to studying at uni. Hopefully by the time I'm old and wrinkly I'll have a bit of money and would have made some sort of contribution to human kind. My favourite quotes would have to be; 'An eye for an eye would make the whole world blind' – Ghandi. 'It's hard to be humble when you're this good' – Muhammad Ali 'I have juicy eyes' – Gabrielle Morris

## Gabrielle Morris

Hey, my name is Gabrielle and I am a proud youth of Darwin. I have lived here the entire 17 years of life. I am currently studying for my International Baccalaureate Year 12 Diploma at Kormilda College.



I am passionate about motivating youth to be active and positive members of their communities so that we can share and grow from each others' qualities and diverse backgrounds. I'm so excited to work with this amazing and hilarious group of motivated people.

I joined the Round Table to get involved and to help make change a reality. So far it's been epic! Peace out. Xx

## Amy Smith

Hi there, my name is Amy Smith (now known as Amstar). Nicknamed due to the fact we have two Amys on the Youth Round Table 08. I am glad I have this opportunity to be part of a diverse, dynamic, great group of people working towards helping the youth of today. I have always had a passion for working with youth and my opportunities for fulfilling this passion are continually evolving.



In early February, I arrived back from six weeks travelling overseas. Seeing the world is one of my biggest inspirations. My sporting commitments also play a major part in my life. I believe life is all about choices. I choose to be an optimist, always having fun. What are your choices?