



Round About the NT

VOLUME 14~NO. 4 - December 2008

www.youth.nt.gov.au

ISSN 1440-2122

Chair and Vice-Chair's Report Meeting 4



Vice-chair Gemma Benn and Chair Katie Chatto

What a weekend to remember! As was predicted, the weeks leading up to the final meeting were busy as teams worked tirelessly together to finalise their community-based projects with the invaluable assistance, organisation and support from the Office of Youth Affairs (OYA) team.

Hard work was certainly the name of the game with members diligently reporting and passionately

discussing what had been happening in their communities one last time before burning the midnight oil to complete their speeches and presentations.

Arriving at Parliament House, guests were formally welcomed by the Director of the Youth Services Branch, Ms Debra Zupp. Our thanks goes to the following guests for attending:

- Minister for Young Territorians, the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MLA
- Chief Executive, Department of the Chief Minister, Mr Mike Burgess
- NT Children's Commissioner, Dr Howard Bath
- Ms Lorraine Evans, Student Services, Department of Education and Training

Members introduced themselves and the Chair and Vice-chair provided an overview of the 2008 Round Table, the issues raised by young people around the NT and some of the countless activities members have participated in during the year.

The presentations of the five community-based projects outlined the aims, major findings and recommendations from the extensive research and activities undertaken. The guests' questions allowed us to expand on our points and recommendations and the positive feedback demonstrated that our guests were listening to what we had to say and were genuinely interested in taking the gathered perspectives of youth in the Territory seriously, which was very encouraging... as no one has more at stake in ensuring the Territory's future than its youth.

Minister McCarthy congratulated members on their efforts and presented us with trophies in recognition of the hard work undertaken throughout the year. The Minister's inspirational concluding words of wisdom certainly demonstrated her commitment towards to the youth portfolio and we appreciated her best wishes for our future endeavours.

This year has been action-packed, motivating, challenging, successful, stressful, rewarding and downright entertaining. We encourage everyone to visit the OYA website and read the 2008 finalised projects and annual report.

To the 2009 Round Table members, we would like to wish you a productive year ahead and hope you have an awesome time 'getting involved!'



Contacts

DARWIN

Office of Youth Affairs
Department of Health and Families
GPO Box 40596
CASUARINA NT 0811
Phone: (08) 8999 3862
Fax: (08) 8999 3883
Freecall: 1800 652 736

- Ms Debra Zupp, Director
- Ms Erika Moore
- Ms Caroline Morrison
- Ms Vicki Schultz
- Ms Nikkiesha Ronnie
- Ms Cara Martin
- Ms Deborah Moore

KATHERINE

Ms Nicola Hunter
PMB 73
KATHERINE NT 0852
Phone: (08) 8973 8989

ALICE SPRINGS

Ms Nicole Bell
PO Box 721
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Phone: (08) 8951 5294

TENNANT CREEK

Ms Kellie Brahim
PO Box 346
TENNANT CREEK NT 0861
Phone: (08) 8962 4264



Amy Smith

Wow what a year! This year has been amazing, busy and stressful to say the least. I must say I am still puzzled to this day why it is called ROUND table, people always ask whether we sit around a round table

and I laugh and think of our rectangular tables. One of the highlights for me personally this year has been meeting all the inspirational young people involved in the community in so many ways. I have also loved all the opportunities being a part of Round Table has given me. Good luck all Round Table members on their future adventures. And thank you everyone for a wonderful year.



Amy Sherrin

Being a member on the 2008 Youth Round Table was a life changing experience and I was incredibly privileged to have been one of the members selected. The opportunities available through the Round Table were incredible and I have learnt many skills over the past year which will assist me throughout life.

Thanks to all the members of the 2008 Youth Round Table and also to Vicki and Deb. It certainly would not have been the same without you.

The greatest lesson I learnt from my time on the Round Table was, if you leave something to the last minute, it should only take a minute.



Desmond Campbell

Aye all you muligahs and kudgens!
Wow... what a friggin year hey guys??
I can't believe we finally made it!! We all

deserve a big pat on the back, so do that now guys, reach over and give yourself a pat on the back! Ha ha but seriously, what a great experience. I cannot recommend enough how important it is to be involved in something like the Round Table to help address issues that are facing us all in the NT as youth. I gained very relevant and important people skills, business skills, network and support that are going to be with me for the rest of my life. The support from Vicki, Deb, Cara and everyone else from OYA is awesome. Don't know how you guys do it. All the RT members... what a random group of people that are committed to making a difference, you are SUPERHEROS! With our powers combined... Kat and Gem... you mad mud crabs and magpie goose! Really was a grand time working with you both. We need to get together for some yarns!

Love ya long time.
Dessymondo Campdog



Emily Holyoake

I can't believe it's all over red rover! This year has been intense, fantastic, frustrating, cruisy, mind blowing and awesome all rolled into one neat little 366 day package! I could write for days on what this year has been like but

almost all of it has had one little (but not so little) factor that has joined it all together and made it a whirl-wind adventure; that would be Youth Round Table. It's opened a million doors and even windows for opportunities to flow through, I've learnt heaps about myself and others had too much fun for my own good and gone CRAZY at the same time. If it wasn't for the hard work of Vicki and Debra, none of us would be here or have the opportunities we're now blessed with. Nor would NT youth have the voice in the NT Government that they have either. But all in all, this year has been fantastic. Good luck to future Round Table members and thanks!

P.S some words of advice for the future, as smart as it sounds, stuffing your face with marshmallows before bed isn't the greatest idea, no matter how great it seems. lol. Oh, and always pack your tooth brush first!
Soop ladaz
Emily xx



Gabby Morriss

Reflecting back on this year, I am overwhelmed with many fond memories. The most memorable Round Table moments usually involve sore abs from copious laughter. From Jack eating steak in 5 min for a dodgy bet, to dance/rap battles and stuffing ourselves with marshmallows. Round Table has provided me with an invaluable network of passionate young people. THANK YOU ALL!!



Felix Ho

Well the year is over. It only seemed like yesterday that the group of fresh faced, bright eyed and bushy tailed young people met for the first time, bubbling with enthusiasm and passion.

Well at the end of our term,

that enthusiasm and passion is still there. Yes we've had our hiccups; our disagreements and intermittent periods of sheer terror. However, it's been an awesome journey and, most importantly, it's been fun! Be it the action packed and full on residential weekends, consultations with young people in Tennant Creek, working with an inspiring group of young Territorians or just negotiating the massive piles of emails- it's all been a humbling experience. But where is the actual Round Table? It has always been rectangular!

To our team, Mind and Body, especially Jack, Amy Sherrin, Amy Smith and Tessa- it's been awesome working with you. To the rest of the Round Table- it's been a privilege to have shared your stories, your passions and your ideas. To Vicki and the OYA staff- your patience and guidance has been an ever source of motivation. Thanks for an awesome time; the laughs, the cries, the chubby bunnies and the card games made my year!

"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." – Walt Disney



Jack Hose

This past year with the Youth Round Table has provided me with an excellent opportunity to give back to my community. I have learned with the right approach it is possible to make a difference for young people in the Northern Territory. I have

not only learned a lot but have managed to have a lot of laughs along the way. I have made a whole heap of new friends as well. I'd recommend the Territory Youth Round Table to any socially concerned young person who wants to have fun and try to improve the lives of young Territorians.



Katherina Gerste

WHAT A YEAR... can I take a breath now? I absolutely had the best time of my life. I think I can honestly say I have never met a more inspirational bunch of people than those that I got the pleasure of working

with this year! It also can be said that the young people of the NT are in safe hands with the work that people of this group have been involved in. Working on our community based projects was a huge challenge this year, there are just not enough hours in the day to fit life, work, play and saving the world in. No just kidding, honestly if you have the motivation and passion to make a difference in your community THEN DO IT! It's not only rewarding personally, but for those people you are helping along the way. No matter how small or big you feel your issue is, start small by volunteering, take your idea to a community organisation or get involved in something like the Round Table. All I can say is that it's worth it, having been part of Round Table this year makes me feel like I have already made a difference. A huge thanks to the OYA staff for all their support, my fellow RT members for making this an awesome experience and Des, Katie and Gem, you guys are 'da bomb'?

Peace, love and happiness.



Katie Chatto

I feel so immensely privileged to have been a part of the 2008 NT Youth Round Table and am extremely proud of what we have achieved this year. It is often said that

young people are the leaders of tomorrow, however after working alongside the inspirational, intelligent, and passionate RT members this year I also believe that young people are the leaders of today. Thank you to all my fellow members for your effort, contribution, support, mateship and the countless laughs throughout the year.

I have embraced the opportunity to engage and convey the ideas, views and concerns of Territory youth to the NT Government and positively contribute to the Territory community. The skills and knowledge I have gained from this rewarding and memorable experience and the networks I have formed will be invaluable in the future. A huge thank you to all those people who supported us for your advice and assistance.

To the youth of the Northern Territory, I encourage you to all take advantage of opportunities available to you ... what we do today will determine the sort of world we live in tomorrow.

Join the Office of Youth Affairs mailing list to receive updates on youth issues and events happening all over the Territory



Kristian Goodacre

Energetic, courageous, inspirational. They're three words to sum up the Youth Round Table members and OYA staff involved in 2008. It has been an extremely rewarding experience from

a personal and professional level. I can't wait to work on more community projects with the young people over 2009 and wish everyone involved all the best in their future endeavours.



Tess Snowdon



Well, what an amazing year it has been. The whole Round Table experience was absolutely eye opening and I learnt and gained so much. The experiences and people were excellent

and made Round Table that much more enjoyable.

My team was great and I'd like to say a special thank you to Amy Smith our team leader, Amy Sherrin, Felix and Jack. Also to the rest of RT members for their help and support throughout the entire year. Thank you to Vicki, Deb and the other OYA staff for making this whole thing possible.

Anyone who has the opportunity to participate in Round Table should definitely do it as it is an experience you will never forget or regret.

Thank you.

Tess xo



Pritika Desai

Hey all, well it's been a great year and unfortunately, like all good things, the 2008 Youth Round Table has come to an end. I can reflect on many good times that occurred this year, but for

that to happen I would require more than just one page of writing paper. So, to all the friends I made here, to the nights we spent playing uno, dancing 'hippie style' in our rooms and sleeping late, I have had an amazing time. I enjoyed developing and completing my project and the Round Table has given me the opportunity to learn and grow in a positive, loving environment. And, to those who are deciding to join the Round Table in the future, I strongly recommend you do it. It is truly a rewarding experience that I will never forget. Thank you for this opportunity of a lifetime.

Love yas all,
Pritika Desai

The 2009 Youth Minister's Round Table members have been announced! Check out the Youth Affairs website for more information www.youth.nt.gov.au

