

Well 2015 has certainly proven to be yet another amazing year for Youth Foundation West Heidelberg (YF3081) with just over \$20,000 granted to 19 youth led projects. This is the most number of projects granted in any year since the program's inception 8 years ago.

YF3081 supports young people to become agents for change by providing grants to fund projects to address issues that concern them. This year saw 75 young people actively involved in the grant writing process as well as implementing their funded projects. For most of these young people, this was their first experience in applying for a YF3081 grant. Through this grant process young people in our community have informed us on what matters to them. Whilst this newsletter is to celebrate the wonderful achievements of young people connected to YF3081, as you read, perhaps you can consider what ways your organisation could take some of these ideas further.

**Please enjoy.**

## The Clubbing Experience



Students from Melbourne Polytechnic's VCAL class in Heidelberg wanted to address the issue of safety in night clubs. To achieve this they turned their class room into a night club, with mirror balls, lighting and live DJ's, all the while providing messages of safe partying. This unique peer to peer style of learning had a considerable impact on the young people in attendance.

## Parkville College

YF3081 worked with young people in custody through Parkville College, across three of their campuses. In 2015 four youth led projects were granted.

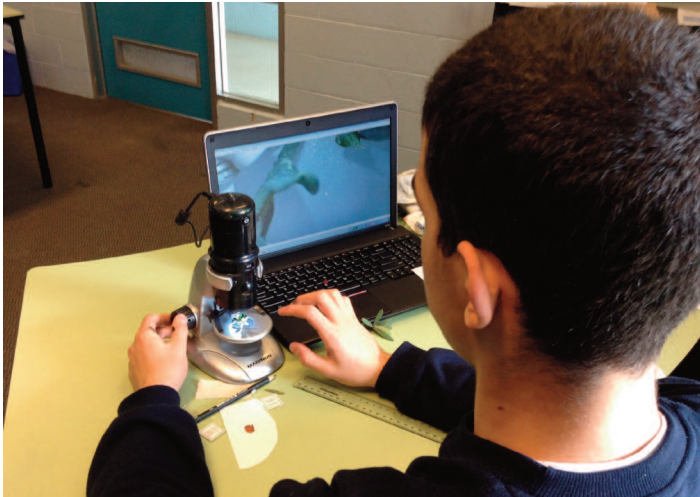
- Girls at the Maribyrnong Campus received a grant for a uniform that they designed themselves, with the motivational slogan "never give up"
- The boys in the Barnett Unit were successful in obtaining a grant for science equipment, a subject



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that they only just started learning. "We would like better equipment so we can do more fun science stuff like looking at things through a microscope, to help us understand the world we live in and to improve our education."

- The Park St campus is for those who have just been released from custody and the young people wanted to mark the first year of this campus with their own designed uniform.
- The Park St campus will also be expanding the front of their school building and installing a basketball ring from the YF3081 grant money so they have a hang out space in their breaks.



## Macleod College VCAL

The Macleod College VCAL students took on YF3081 as part of their learning this year spending term 2 researching their community projects and writing their grant applications, and term 3 implementing their projects including:

- Child friendly decorations and a new cubby house for the Austin Child and Mental Health Service
- A revamp of their class room
- A worm farm to accompany the veggie garden
- Repaint of the basketball court lines
- Street art style signage on the school buildings
- A bike safety day for Macleod Primary

## September School Holidays



- Year 11 students from Our Lady's of Mercy spent 3 days of their school holidays acting as a big sister/mentor to young people in West Heidelberg who would otherwise have little to do on the holidays. The day camps included a trip to the city and to Luna Park.
- Young people connected to the Exodus community identified the holidays as a boring time. "I would just be so excited if we get a grant to go ten pin bowling. To have a whole day of fun would be something we could so look forward to."



## Special thanks

- Thank you to the Mayor of Banyule City Council, Craig Langdon, for listening to the voices of the local young people. He took the time to listen to their complaints about the basketball court at Malahang Reserve being too small and flooding. Thanks to Council a new court has been built.
- Thank you to all of the Youth Foundation supporters, namely Banyule Community Health, the East Ivanhoe and Heidelberg Community Bank branches of the Bendigo Bank, La Trobe University and Banyule City Council. Thank you also to all the individuals who have helped to fundraise and connect young people to YF3081.

## Hot off the press

With the support of Bendigo Bank and several branches across Victoria, YF3081 will increase its reach to young people in custody across Victoria by working in conjunction with Parkville College in 2016 and 2017. Thank you to all of the advocates and supporters for recognising the importance of youth led community development towards social change.

## Youth Foundation 3081 Celebrations



The celebrations have been an important aspect of YF3081 with young people, funders and the broader community coming together to hear about projects and issues that young people care about as well as celebrate the achievements of young people in 3081. In September La Trobe University, with performances from Macleod College bands and La Trobe's Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Jane Long handing out certificates to successful applicants.





## Other highlights:

- The Swinkin class at The Pavilion School will be celebrating their end of year with a day horse riding
- A group of proactive local Somali boys who wanted to keep up their soccer skills in the off season were successful in getting a grant to participate in a 14 week futsal tournament. News of the boy's enthusiasm has spread to Melbourne City who offered to coach the boys through January and have also invited them to a game at AAMI Park.
- The boys from the local basketball team Hoop Dreams are coordinating their first ever tournament that will go all weekend in late December. There will also be plenty of prizes, DJ's and market stalls to keep participants and supporters occupied. For more information contact Nathan on [nd89williams@gmail.com](mailto:nd89williams@gmail.com)
- Young people who attend the Aboriginal Homework Group at Banyule Community Health were successful in a grant for 2 iPads to improve their literacy and numeracy skills by working with apps such as "mathletics".
- The name says it all, the African Women's Action Group really got into action and organised a basketball tournament for the community that was a huge success.



Check out some of our videos of celebrations and projects at [www.bchs.org.au/video-gallery](http://www.bchs.org.au/video-gallery)

Youth Foundation is made possible by the following supporters:



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