

From the consultations young people identified the following six priority areas:

- Strengthening and Connecting Our Young People
- Valuing Young People
- Involving Young People
- Learning and Working
- Young People and Places and Spaces
- Working Together

As a starting point a set of key initiatives and suggested actions have been developed. to achieve the outcomes for each of these priority areas.

See inside for more details. New ideas and actions are also welcome!!



Interested and want to know more?

Contact Wyong Shire Council's Youth Engagement Officer on 0408 161 347 or send an email to Youth.Stuff@wyong.nsw.gov.au

View the other documents in the Youth Engagement Strategy www.wyong.nsw.gov.au

The **Background Report** shows the process we went through, and the key findings from talking to over 1,000 people about young people in our community.

There are two **Toolkits for Youth Participation and Engagement**. The Toolkits provide practical guides for young people on how to get involved in the community and tips for community groups and businesses on how to empower, engage with and support young people.



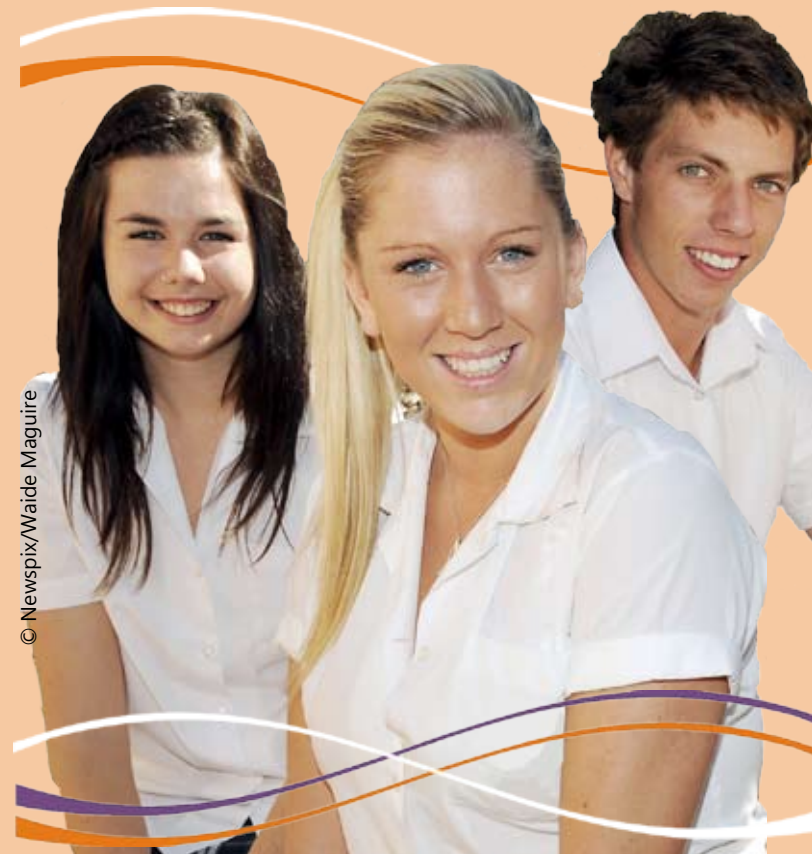
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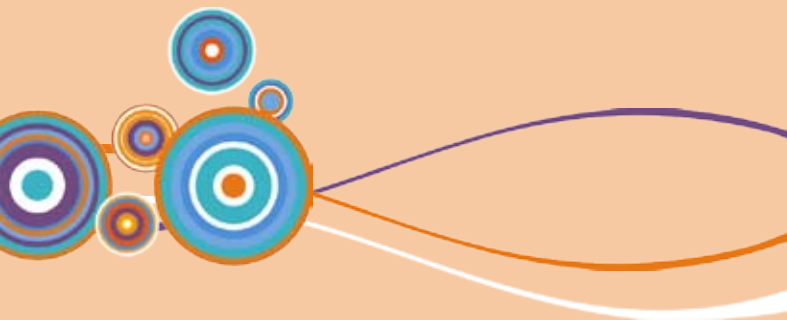
Wyong Shire Youth Prospectus

Invest in our Young People

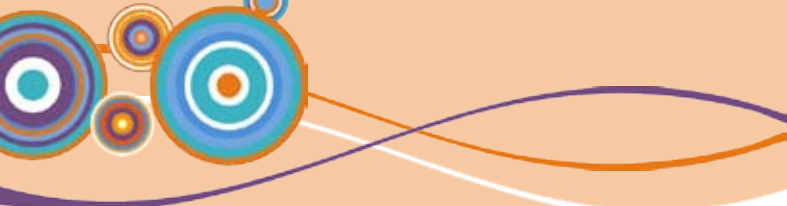
An opportunity to make a difference!



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Part of the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy



What is the Youth Partnership Program?

The Youth Partnership Program (YPP) is a new program developed to enable your local business, government agency or community group to partner and champion young people in ways that will make a real difference to the future of our community.

Developed by young people, the YPP is an innovative way to support young people to achieve their goals and aspirations, and to be active, valued members of the community.

An integral part of Wyong Shire Council's Youth Engagement Strategy, this exciting program provides practical opportunities for you to help support and connect young people to community, education and employment.

The YPP invites you to partner with us to bring the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy alive!



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How Can I Make a Difference?

We encourage you to make a difference by resourcing, supporting and partnering with us.

You can:

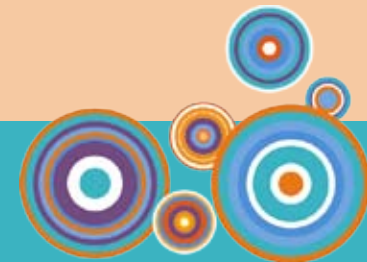
- Become a project partner/champion.
- Provide financial sponsorship for specific actions or projects.
- Form a collaborative partnership and provide human resources.
- Undertake the delivery of specific actions as part of your current program with existing resources.

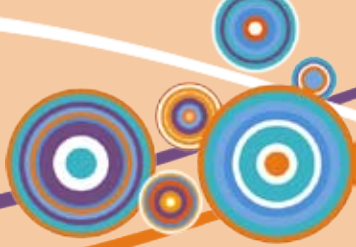
Benefits of the Youth Partnership Program include:

- The opportunity to engage and empower young people.
- The opportunity to be a partner in our cutting edge Youth Partnership Program.
- Promotion of your business, agency, group for its contribution and partnership.
- The opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of young people in Wyong Shire.

If you like one of the suggested actions in the Prospectus, have a different idea on how you would like to get involved or just want some more information, give us a call. Wyong Shire Council has appointed a Youth Engagement Officer to work with you to implement the Youth Partnership Program.

This is your opportunity to get involved in a project that you are passionate about!





How do we know what young people really want?

The Youth Partnership Program is based on what young people have told us is working in the community for them and what is important to them both now and in the future – and building on this, what would be happening in Wyong if we could do more.

During 2009, Wyong Shire Council undertook a new and innovative process to develop a Youth Strategy “by young people for young people”. This approach has been recognised nationally as an excellent example of youth participation.

The team carried out an extensive and innovative engagement process with young people in their own environments. From skate parks, youth centres, refuges and schools, hundreds of young people were provided with opportunities to voice their opinions, have their say and be listened to the team also connected with businesses, community groups and agencies. Community input into the development was significant. Over 60 consultations, conversations and events took place involving more than 1,000 people!

Conversations identified:

- What young people value in their community
- The services, activities and facilities they use and enjoy
- The future they want for Wyong Shire
- Their ideas for improving what is already here
- And how to go about it

From the process hundreds of young people put their hand up to remain involved as a partner.



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Young people wanted the Shire to be “hectic, meaning active and busy and having “heaps of stuff to do”. The Shire would be vibrant, modern, colourful and have a positive vibe with more opportunities for performance, dance, music, festival and events. There would be pathways to local education and employment. There would be a focus on the natural environment and greater environmental awareness with the existing character of the Shire retained.

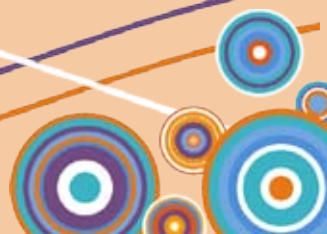
Young people would like to see a Shire where there is a real sense of community – welcoming, respectful, caring, friendly, happy, safe – with young people having increased connections to the community. There would be better transport and health services and housing would be affordable.



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Priority Areas

1. Strengthening and connecting our young people

There is a strong desire by young people and community members in Wyong Shire to increase knowledge of, and access to, what already exists for young people in this community. Young people want to feel part of their community and have a sense of belonging. We are seeking ideas and resources that will produce outcomes like:

- Strengthening young people's access to community activities, resources and support networks;
- Promoting activities that strengthen relationships between young people and their communities; and
- Creating opportunities for youth based initiatives that promote a sense of pride, community and belonging in community.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Weekly positive youth news and what's on in the local newspaper, TV, radio and a youth info and events calendar.
- Events that promote participation by young people, their families and enhance neighbourhood connections.
- Intergenerational and volunteer opportunities.
- A Youth Ticket for public transport.
- A Youth Participation Grant where small grants are provided for initiatives that promote community pride and enhance the skills of young people.



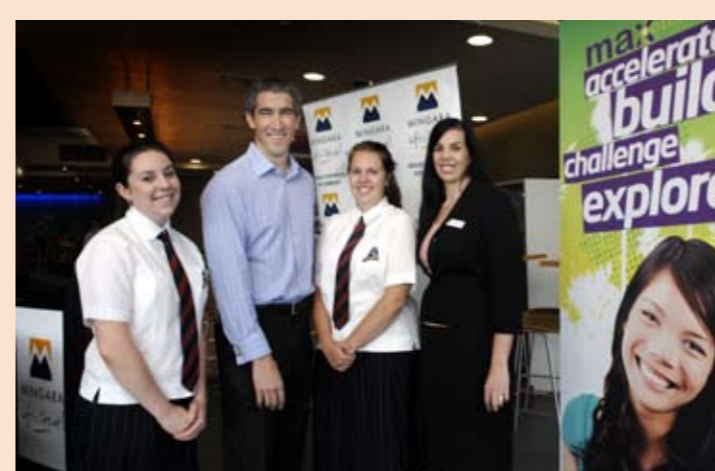
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3. Involving young people

Young people have told us they want to participate in shaping their community but are not provided with the opportunity. Often projects, programs and activities are designed and developed by adults based on a "do to", rather than a "do with", approach. Through meaningful participation young people can develop their skills, knowledge and confidence to be actively involved in the community.

We are seeking ideas and resources are that will produce outcomes like:

- Increasing opportunities to involve young people in shaping the look, feel, culture and environments of their community;
- Providing opportunities for leadership and decision making activities for young people; and
- Resourcing and supporting the active participation of young people in community projects, activities and initiatives.



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You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Youth leadership programs.
- Youth participation and leadership on appropriate Council and community projects, programs, boards and committees.
- Exchange program and scholarship fund to support young people to participate in leadership opportunities e.g. Schoolies alternatives.
- Assisting young people to organise and run their own music and cultural events (e.g. live sites, outdoor cinemas, and street performance), access resources and venues.
- Connecting schools and their curriculums to local community issues and activities.



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5. Young people and places and spaces

Young people value and make use of the many community, cultural and recreation places and spaces in their community. They want to activate existing spaces into vibrant, welcoming, safe, colourful and respectful spaces that support the interaction and mixing of all age groups. Young people also really care about their local environment and sustainable development.

We are seeking ideas and resources that produce outcomes like:

- Providing new and activating existing places and spaces which are vibrant, safe, accessible, and promote social interaction and participation;
- Promoting opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles
- Involving young people in the planning, design and construction of places and spaces; and
- Engaging young people in a range of sustainable environmental community projects.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Bringing spaces and places to life through feature lighting, outdoor cinemas, markets, street performance, dance, music and art.
- Venues to showcase arts, cultural and musical talents of young people.
- Cultural, recreational and leisure programs e.g. skate comps, bands, talent quests, art festivals.
- Enhancing relationships between young people and shopping centres by providing youth friendly spaces and activities.
- Environmental education programs and activities that involve young people.



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2. Valuing young people

Young people in Wyong Shire are involved in making a difference in the lives of their families, friends, schools and/or community. While not all young people want to be recognised publically, they do want, and need, to be valued as important members of the community.

We are seeking ideas and resources are that will produce outcomes like:

- Recognising, valuing and celebrating the efforts and diverse achievements of young people; and
- Promoting achievements through youth friendly media.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Youth Recognition Program.
- Youth ambassadors playing an active role in community activities and events.
- Showcasing the positive contributions that young people are making in the community through local media, schools, youth and community centres and interactive displays in shopping centres and public spaces.
- Events and activities that showcase the skills, talents and abilities of young people e.g. Youth Week.

4. Learning and working

Many young people leave school early or leave Wyong Shire in search of higher education and perceived broader career options elsewhere. There is strong desire from both young people and our local business community to tap into local talent and expand local career pathways.

We are seeking ideas and resources that produce outcomes like:

- Developing and enhancing learning and employment pathways for young people.
- Supporting and resourcing youth based ventures and enterprises that can lead to local employment.
- Connecting employment needs with young people's skills and interests; and
- Equipping young people with life skills.



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You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Youth mentor programs.
- Developing and promoting pathways into local employment for young people through work experience placements, traineeships and apprenticeships.
- Promoting the benefits and incentives available to local employers to employ young people.
- Planning and advocating for improved public transport opportunities that meet the needs of young people accessing education and employment.
- A social enterprise providing training and real work experience for young people e.g. a youth café.
- Scholarship programs.

6. Working together to make it happen

It is important to bring together the resources of government and community to meet the hopes, dreams and goals of young people. We need to build on the partnerships and goodwill that already exists within the community and improve the co-ordination of existing resources, programs and services.

We are seeking ideas and resources to produce outcomes like:

- Enhancing opportunities to work with and for young people;
- Enhancing partnerships and collaborative approaches;
- Establishing a locally owned resources base for the Youth Prospectus; and
- Measuring the impact and success of the Youth Engagement Strategy.



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