

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 26 July 2017
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 10.08 am

The following members were present:

Clr Patricia White - Chairperson
Clr Nina Cheyne
Alyson Green – Shoalhaven High School
Jordan Mlotkouski – Shoalhaven High School
Nathan Harris - Shoalhaven High School
Abbey Jackson - Shoalhaven High School
Sophie Dobell - Shoalhaven High School
Imogen Hemsley – Ulladulla High School
Patrick Armstrong - Ulladulla High School
Jack Skinner - Ulladulla High School
Christabella Herbert-Smith - Ulladulla High School
Bonnie Marshall – Office of Ann Sudmalis

Others present:

Donna Corbyn – Youth Development Officer
Lily Hatcher – Regional Development Australia
Claire Fisher – Grand Pacific Health
Patricia David – Unions Shoalhaven
Fay Lewis – Unions Shoalhaven

Nathan Harris gave the Acknowledgement to Country

Apologies / Leave of Absence

An apology was received from Clr Levett, Clr Pakes and Ann Sudmalis.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 03 May 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Clr White provided background information in relation to what a declaration is and an example of when a declaration should be made.

Students of Ulladulla High School – YA17.18 - Youth Advisory Committee Budget Allocations from Planning Day 2017 – pecuniary interest declaration – an Item in the budget relates to funding at Ulladulla High School – remained in the room but did not take part in discussion or vote.

Lily Hatcher (RDA) – YA17.18 - Youth Advisory Committee Budget Allocations from Planning Day 2017 – pecuniary interest declaration – an Item in the budget relates to funding for an event run by RDA – remained in the room but did not take part in discussion or vote.

PRESENTATIONS

YA17.17 Unions Shoalhaven - Youth Unemployment

**HPERM Ref:
D17/229615**

Clr White introduced Patricia David and Fay Lewis from Unions Shoalhaven who provided a Q & A for the members of the Committee.

The following points were raised and discussed during the Q & A presentation.

Patricia David is the Secretary for Unions Shoalhaven which is a recognised District Committee of the South Coast and would like to hear from the Youth Advisory Committee on what they see as the most important issues in relation to unemployment.

Q: Does anyone know what the Youth unemployment figures are for the Shoalhaven?

A: The figures for youth unemployment are 25.4%

Which is the highest average in NSW, it's an alarming figure.

At Unions Shoalhaven we offer support by providing information for rights at work (handed out leaflets for information on minimum wage) and what is not ok in the workplace. Many young people we have spoken to have not been given any information in relation to the award rates they are being paid nor payslips. This is a major problem in the Shoalhaven along with transport issues.

It was raised and highlighted at last weeks expo that there is nowhere to go for support – A student raised that a first point of contact could be the parents to help resolve the problem.

A good example of what can be achieved is a Youth worker in the Illawarra was being offered a low rate of pay. This person starting voicing opinions on social media which other people from the community contributed and then Fair Work approached the businesses which were found to be not be doing the right thing and were ordered to back pay the people effected.

We would like to return to the YAC meetings in the future in relation to seeking employment and show the paths to take. We have been asked to take part in the Shoalhaven River Festival and will have a lot of information at this event. Unions Shoalhaven can be contacted via email.

Unions Shoalhaven would like to reach out and offer assistance if the YAC have any questions.

Fay Lewis – Coordinator for Unions Shoalhaven held a discussion and the following matters were raised and discussed.

Q: Who here at the YAC have a part time job? – Some students acknowledged

Fay distributed a leaflet on wages and rates of awards. Fay advised that you shouldn't be offered a trial for employment without being paid for that trial.

A question was asked about the age group for the unemployment rate that was mentioned. A: 18-24 years.

Q - Fay:Why do you think that other towns have different statistics?

Student A: No qualifications which bring the rate down

Q - Fay: How many present are planning to go to University or Tafe? A: most responded yes and said that maybe doing a part time job will assist with fees and lifestyle etc

Fay stated that some people have to travel to complete different components of apprenticeships and/or University degrees/qualifications

Tourism industry jobs such as cafes, cleaning etc don't offer qualifications

Fay stated that no one present is representing non school aged youth on the YAC. Staff advised that there are non school aged youth members however none are present at this meeting.

Fay asked is any siblings of the members present are unemployed? No response from students however the Teacher of Ulladulla High School made the following comments:

- Not finishing high school and/or university with pressure to maintain living, seeing more students drop out of university.
- Innovation like slow food movement in the southern Shoalhaven and small business
- People are coming to the south for the love of food and pristine environment
- Farmers have market gardens etc
- We need funding for clever innovation
- People come for a personalised tourist experience
- People are developing their own skills through innovation and we need clever innovative funding

Fay asked for those that are working part time, are you happy with your current working conditions? A response was, sometimes the pays can get mixed up but mostly happy.

Fay asked if the YAC thought that there are many others in the community that face the same situation? Response was, possibly but we would ask our parents first.

Fay asked: do you think that there is enough sufficient information out there about fair work conditions? Response was, yes possibly.

Fays stated that Unions Shoalhaven could be the point of contact via email if you are not confident approaching employer directly.

Fay stated that media is a great way to interact and get the point across, do you feel the need for a Facebook page or information access point? Possibly Council could take on?

Staff advised that Council produces information updated every 12 months with contact details

Bonnie (Representing Ann Sudmalis) stated that both Union Shoalhaven representatives are members of the Labour party and here on behalf of Union Shoalhaven and should consider making a declaration of interest. Q: Where did Union Shoalhaven get the unemployment figure from? A: it came from the departments publication from 29/5/17. Q: And the figure for the decline in apprenticeships? A: not sure but its an official figure.

Clr White advised that the 25.4% figure stated by Union Shoalhaven isn't just the figure for Shoalhaven, it actually takes into account the whole "South Coast" being from Kiama area to parts of Eurobodalla. 75% of the Shoalhaven is parks and forest which leaves 25% of the space in Shoalhaven for employment opportunities. There are lots of reasons why there is issues with unemployment. Clr Gartner and Clr White have an innovative idea of an electric bus that runs up and down the coast. Also Greg Pullen from Economic Development Section does a great job here trying to find jobs.

Bonnie stated that www.employment.gov.au have all the initiatives on the sites or contact careers advisors or go to an employment agency.

Donna Corbyn advised that one of the largest growing industries in the Shoalhaven is aged care with many opportunities and careers.

REPORTS

YA17.18 Youth Advisory Committee Budget Allocations from Planning Day 2017

**HPERM Ref:
D17/215547**

Donna Corbyn thanked Helen Waterhouse and Margaret Simoes for running the planning day in her absence, they did a great job to line up the financial year.

Note: Cllr Cheyne left the meeting at 11.09am

Students of Ulladulla High School – pecuniary interest declaration – an Item in the budget relates to funding at Ulladulla High School – remained in the room but did not take part in discussion or vote.

Lily Hatcher (RDA) – pecuniary interest declaration – an Item in the budget relates to funding for an event run by RDA – remained in the room but did not take part in discussion or vote.

The YAC discussed the attached table of applications and alterations were made

Action – Donna Corbyn

Note: In relation to the applications from various organisations, when sending the funds, advise that the students were reluctant to approve some request based on the information provided in the application.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That in relation to the application for funding from Inspire Australia Foundation (John Lamont) that this application be referred to the Economic Development Section.

CARRIED

RESOLVED (By consent)

That in accordance with the Committee's delegated authority from Council, that the Youth Advisory Committee resolve to discuss and finalise funds from their budget to projects as stated in the attached table.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

YA17.19 Youth Advisory Committee - Amendment - Terms of Reference

The Committee discussed the age limits in the Terms of Reference and made the following recommendation.

Recommendation (By consent)

That Council amend the Terms of Reference to reflect the age to read from Year 9 and above to 24 years of age.

CARRIED

YA17.20 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

The Committee discussed the following points which were updates from the previous minutes:

- Park Run
 - There is a shared user path being constructed that could be used for a park run type of event.
 - Needs to have parking and toilet facilities available – if it started at Tabourie there wouldn't be traffic management required.
 - Clr White advised that the path will be continued from the entrance to the caravan park
 - It was suggested that for bike riders it would be preferred that the path were concrete
 - Clr White advised that every year Council receives funding from RMS for path funding, there is a major project at the moment to continue the path from Matron Porter Drive to Narrawallee
 - It was suggested that the YAC write to Shelley Hancock to include it in future budgets
- Youth Week Awards
 - Shoalhaven's Youth Week Program is a finalist for a Local Government 2017 award, staff and Councillor White will be attending the awards next week
- International Youth Day Awards
 - Need to set another date that doesn't conflict with end of year celebrations and Arts Awards
 - Nominated date – Thursday 2 November 2017
 - Any YAC members that would like to assist on the night please advise Donna Corbyn
- Youth Week letter to the Minister has been put on hold for now as the funding will be provided at State Level an announcement will be made soon.
- Helen Waterhouse advised that transitioning School students discussed university. She discussed with Robbie Collins (UOW) on ways to keep classes new and interesting and ways to interact who is willing to come to the YAC to do a presentation but needs to know what you want her to talk about. An informal chat about University and a few different ways of entry eg. Mature age students, post grad etc.
 - RDA to coordinate speakers to attend the next meeting
- **Action – Donna Corbyn:** The cross country bike track is not on Council land and is on Ulladulla LALC land therefore a letter to be sent to them as it's a bit overgrown and needs maintenance.
- The pool cover would not retain the heat when put on at night and would need an enclosure over the pool
- Helen updated on Livvis Place – Council is holding a fundraiser – the project is running on schedule and should be open in October, hopeful that the YAC can be present at the opening. Fundraising lunch will be held at the Mollymook SLSC Sunday 20 August 2017

Clr White advised that at last night's Council meeting a group of young students from Team Shuffle did a presentation and were supported financially by Council to go to London for a Challenge. There was 32,000 entries from all over the world and Team Shuffle won an award for the most cooperative and friendly team and came back in the top 20.

Action: Donna to arrange a presentation from Team Shuffle at the next meeting

YA17.21 Grand Pacific Health - Healthy Lifestyle Initiative

Claire from Grand Pacific Health putting out enquiries for what constitutes a healthy lifestyle?

YAC members responded: Finding a hobby or sport and eating well

How much of this do you do at school/other education if not doing PDHPE? Year 12 have the opportunity to not participate in sport.

Grand Pacific Health can provide a presentation and provide dietitians etc that can go to the schools and present – talk about mental strength in sport

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 12.21pm.

Clr White
CHAIRPERSON