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August 2012

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Featured Websites

www.headspace.org.au

Headspace helps thousands of young people in Australia get their lives back on track. Check out their new website!

www.youthoffthestreets.com.au

Youth Off The Streets is a non-denominational community organisation working for young people who are disadvantaged, homeless, drug dependent and/or recovering from abuse.

Upcoming Activities

Saturday 17 November

Light Up Camden Festival, 4pm - 9pm, Argyle Street - Camden

Helpful Phone Numbers

000 For Emergencies

9616 8586 Drug & Alcohol Treatment Access Line, Sydney South West Area Health Service

1800 422 899 ADIS (Alcohol

Message from the CEO - Geraldine Dean

Over the last few months, our team have been busy conducting workshops in schools and with community organisations, as well as planning and writing new programs and getting ready for the launch of our brand new website. Stay tuned for more info!



If you haven't already, make sure you visit www.giveusahand.org.au and decorate a virtual hand in the support of the message 'WRECKreational Drugs...don't let them wreck your night'.

Our Youth Advisory Group is focused on getting as many hands as possible to spread their message and they would really appreciate your support. It will only take a few minutes and it is fun!

Also we have some exciting news to share! We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Abbie, second daughter of our Program Coordinator, Dan & wife Bec and little sister to Layla. Congratulations Mum and Dad! She is beautiful!

Charity Event 2012

A big thank you to everyone who was involved in our **Latin Fiesta...feel the rhythm** Charity Event for 2012. We raised over \$20 000 on the night and we are thrilled with this result.



Thank you for getting dressed in your brightest, boldest outfits and for adding to the success of the event by making a bid on our silent auction items, purchasing raffle tickets or buying mystery prizes. We can't wait for the 2013 Charity Event!

Another thanks to our wonderful sponsors and supporters who helped make this event happen this year. A special mention to the volunteers on our fundraising committee for all their work. For a full list of our sponsors and supporters... [click here](#).

The Rotary Club of Narellan

In addition to the support they give our service, *The Rotary Club of Narellan* helps many organisations in the community. This was especially apparent at their Annual Ball on Friday 10 August 'A Night to Remember'. This night brought together 500 members of the community and distributed over \$1.6 million to a range of worthwhile services from South West Sydney. We would like to congratulate *The Rotary Club of Narellan* on an amazing night and thank them once again for selecting us as a beneficiary.



Drug Info Service) 24 hours

13 11 14 Lifeline 24 hours

Rotary is an organisation of business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. It is comprised of 1.2 million members working in more than 33,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic regions.

With the proud motto of 'Service Above Self', Rotary International, through local clubs like *The Rotary Club of Narellan*, strive individually and as a cohesive group to serve the Macarthur area and proudly sponsor and support community groups like Youth Solutions.

For more information about *The Rotary Club of Narellan* please contact Club President Tony Ross on 0403 341 404.

Campbelltown young people – the national media has got it wrong

Written by Robert Barrie - Youth Advisory Group

Last year, when I was watching National Nine News, there was a story about how where you live 'affects your education'. The story was about Campbelltown...

Young people that were interviewed said there are no opportunities in Campbelltown. The story made Campbelltown look like a terrible place; an area where young people didn't achieve anything and that the youth of Campbelltown "simply have nothing else to do," showing images of young people smoking and mucking around.

The day after the story aired, I was approached by the Macarthur Chronicle to get a group of proud young people to respond to this story. I could only find seven young people from Campbelltown to be a part of this article. The Mount Annan Challenge Walk which raises money for local charities was on the same day and hundreds of young people were at that. Other young people had work, some had family commitments, and many were at home studying for upcoming exams and doing assignments. According to this news report, young people in our area don't do any of that. We don't do our school work, or participate in the community. We just hang around in groups and intimidate people with our hoodies.

Where are the stories about great things young people are doing in the community? We have many students who succeed in sport and performing arts. Our area produces the highest calibre of student leaders, pioneers in Aboriginal student leadership. We have high achieving schools, TAFE and universities and a large number of youth support services, service clubs and charities like Youth Solutions doing great work in our community– none of which gets talked about.

We need to instil pride in young people and their community. In my opinion if we are proud of something, we are going to look after it. Perhaps pride in Campbelltown will lead to a drop in youth crime rates in the community.

I proud to be a young person from Campbelltown.

Student Placement - Helma Azmar

Spending five weeks at Youth Solutions has opened my eyes to a wide range of things. Even though my degree is in medicine and many people were not sure how I could relate this placement to my studies, I had the opportunity to learn more about how serious the problem of drugs and alcohol is among young people. Certain topics that I took for granted before had made me realise how significant and important workshops and peer led education tactics can be to combat these issues.

Youth Solutions' role in the community to spread the awareness of the adverse effects of drugs and alcohol in young people should really be praised. I am glad that I could spend some time at Youth Solutions and hopefully the knowledge that I gained could help me later on in my medical profession.

Thank you for kind words and all of your help Helma. We wish you all the very best in your studies!

Danielle Mate - New Beginnings Exhibition

Local Aboriginal artist, Danielle Mate has raised an incredible \$1840 for Youth Solutions.



Through July, Danielle showcased her artworks at her exhibition 'New Beginnings' at the Ferguson Gallery - Camden Civic Centre. During this exhibition, Danielle sold raffle tickets for a \$1000 custom made DJ Mate artwork. She also displayed artworks at our Charity Event and then donated 40% of her sales on the night as well as donated a 'day with the artist' package as part of our silent auction.

The Youth Solutions team would like to thank Danielle and her husband Shane for their amazing support of our service.

For more info about Danielle and her work visit www.djmate.com.au.

Same Sex Attracted Youth Group in Campbelltown

Macarthur Youth Health Service (Traxside) is a free and confidential service for young people between 12 and 24 years of age living in the Macarthur area. Traxside responds to the health and emotional needs of young people by offering counselling, therapeutic & health education groups, nurse's clinic and outreach programs.



One of their longstanding health education programs is a group called CQ. This group is an educational and support group for same sex attracted young people living within the Macarthur area. For more information email Traxside@sswahs.nsw.gov.au or call 4625 2525

Thought of the month

Do you think the media's negative portrayal of young people can influence youth drug and alcohol misuse?

Go to our [Facebook page](#) and comment on this status to let us know what you think. Heard anything you're not sure about or want to put forward for debate?

Email us: info@youthsolutions.com.au!

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