

# YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION LTD

*Annual Report - 2018*



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### **FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR**

Our journey over the past twelve months has been both productive and exciting. As outlined in detail later in this Report, we have focused our energies in alignment with the focus areas outlined in our Foundation Strategic Plan:

1. Partnership Development;
2. Raising Funds;
3. Branding;

We have spent the past year enhancing our position by becoming a ***presence*** in the wider community and this will provide the platform for our fund raising and support activities into the future

I am grateful for the energy and wisdom all Board Members bring to our discussions and considerations. Equally, we are blessed with the outstanding support we receive from our Executive Officers.

I invite all members of the wider community to join us in our endeavours this year as we continue to fulfil our mission.

Sincerely



Daryl Hanly OAM

## **YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION BACKGROUND**

### **OUR VISION**

Is to enable all young people from diverse and complex backgrounds to have equal access to educational opportunities.

### **OUR MISSION**

The Youth Plus Foundation exists to support the broader interests of the community. It does this by providing a quality and innovative education for young people from diverse and complex backgrounds. Youth Plus Foundation fundraising activities facilitate the improvement and development of the resources and operations of Youth Plus Flexible Learning Centres nationally.

The Foundation has been endorsed under the Australian Taxation Office Deductible Gift Recipient and registered as a charity with a purpose that is the advancement of education and other purposes beneficial to the community with the Australian Charities and Not - for - profits Commission (ABN 29 161 485 178). The Youth Plus Foundation has also received its charitable tick as an Approved Charity with the ACNC.

### **YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION NATIONAL LAUNCH**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August, we brought together colleagues & guests to officially Launch our Youth Plus Foundation. Overlooking the beautiful Brisbane River with the Story Bridge as our backdrop, the night began with a Welcome by our Director, Dale Murray. Dale remarked on the responsibility we have to foster an environment of shared growth, justice & opportunity in our community and walk alongside all young people to enable them to reach their potential. Following on, we were joined by Uncle Des Sandy, a respected elder of the Jagera Daran Nation to welcome us to Country. With his deep knowledge of country & Indigenous history, we acknowledged the traditional owners and the land on which we stood.

To celebrate the Launch, we were joined by two guest speakers. Bernie Geary, OAM our Youth Plus Ambassador, who has over 30 years' experience in the youth & education services sector and Michael Groom, an extraordinary mountaineer who has climbed four of the world's highest mountains including Mt Everest, twice. Bernie drew on lived experience and personal reflection to highlight the significance of supporting disenfranchised young people to ensure all communities have equal opportunities for self-empowerment and education. Michael shared his immensely inspiring survival story to articulate the importance of resilience and determination when the chips are down in life.

We were also joined by a very special family. Clive & Nita Hildebrand have been supporting our work for a number of years in loving memory of their son, Greg. To conclude the evening, we were extremely thankful to receive an incredible \$100,000 donation from the Hildebrand's presented to Dale. We endeavor to celebrate Greg's wonderful passion for education & spirit as part of our Youth Plus Foundation vision. Our partnership with the Hildebrand family will provide invaluable support to our Flexible Learning Centre's to engage, empower & nurture our young people.

We sincerely appreciate all attendees on the night and look forward to continuing our work to enable young people from all walks of life to have equal access to educational opportunities.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

2018 has provided opportunities for the Youth Plus Foundation to begin to explore the membership with some changeover of roles. We farewelled Board Member, Jacqueline Ryan which was a significant loss for the Foundation given her experience and expertise in the space.

Moving forward this change did allow for broader recruitment opportunities and the expansion of Directors on the Board. Directors sought approval from the Membership to expand the number of Directors. This change in Constitution now allows for the Board to have up to sitting Directors, allowing for a broader and diverse buy in to the work.

As another year goes by, The Youth Plus Foundation again acknowledges the important role that the Board Directors play in the operation of the Company to progress its goals. Building and growing the Foundation has relied on the commitment, knowledge and connection of the Directors to continue to assist in the generation of funding to support young people in the Flexible Learning Centre's across the country. Additionally, the Board has been instrumental in raising the awareness of young people who have been disenfranchised from mainstream education systems.

## **AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES & NON-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION**

The compliance mechanisms of the Youth Plus Foundation sits within our membership with the Australian Charities and Non-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). Part of this accountability requires annual reporting.

Accordingly, the Youth Plus Foundation will submit its Annual Information Statement (AIS) for 2018 directly and envisions further endorsement to maintain its Charity tax concession status.

The Youth Plus Foundation still holds its Registered Charity Tick. This recognition from the ACNC gives reassurance to the public that the Charity is transparent and accountable and listed on the ACNC Charity Register.

## CONSTITUTION

The Youth Plus Foundation is closely linked with ‘Woodstock’ a 300ha property in Tamborine. Woodstock is targeted at providing access to Outdoor Education opportunities for young people who may not have experienced outdoor learning and connection to nature. These young people are often vulnerable, and experience many barriers to engaging meaningfully in therapeutic interventions. Woodstock is the conduit of engagement for these young people – we provide the space for this important work to be done.

The Youth Plus Foundation has on many occasions supported grant applications for programs of Woodstock, however it became apparent that the objectives of our Constitution were limiting, in terms of acknowledging the sports and recreation component of the property, namely outdoor education and accordingly agreed on an amendment to the Constitution to include the new rule 4.2 (d) (vi):

*‘Developing and running Structured Outdoor Physical Activity programs as a form of or as a part of an intervention therapy’*

The Board envision a broader scope of applications for Woodstock from the Foundation with this amendment.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Youth Plus Foundation has been successful in supporting a number of grants in the 2018 reporting period which have provided Flexible Learning Centre’s across Australia with the ability to run projects/programs that assist in the re - engagement of young people. We were also very blessed to receive a further funding investment from the Hildebrand Family to further the work of project/programs in Flexible Learning Centres that positively contribute to the engagement of at-risk young people.

Department of Infrastructure QLD	Woodstock	Reinvigorating Hancock House	\$18,595
Glenorchy Community Fund	St Francis'	Screen Printing Project	\$1970
Sustainable Communities	Woodstock	Landscape Restoration and Connectivity along the Albert River	\$21,300
Sidney Myer Fund	Deception Bay	Wood work Project	\$2000
Moreton Bay Regional Council	Deception Bay	Wood work Project	\$1000
Calvary Hospital Fund	St Francis'	Futsal program	\$5000
Private donation	Woodstock	Equipment purchase	\$880
St Pats Strathfield	St Joes Alice Springs	Immersion Project	\$27,000
Lord Mayors Fund	St Francis'	Equipment Purchase	\$1000
Hildebrand Award	Mt Isa	Lawn Care Enterprise	\$5000
Hildebrand Beneficiary	Y+ Foundation	National donation	\$100,000
			<b>\$183,745</b>

Grant writing, support and advice is a key function of the Foundation for Flexible Learning Centre's to access. These localised support mechanisms and responses from the Foundation to the Flexible Learning Centers will ensure that the direct needs of young people are being addressed. The Foundation also aims to provide support to build the skill sets and capacity of staff at the Flexible Learning Centre's to bring their creative and innovative programs and projects to life.

## **LIVING SUPPORT FUND**

At the end of 2018, St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre ceased the operation of a The Asylum Seeker Pathways Project (ASPP) at the end of a two-year funding cycle with the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs. This resulted in the remaining operational component – the Living Support Fund (LSF) of the project in a period of transition.

The Youth Plus Foundation set up the LSF in 2017, successfully raising over \$70,000 since then, to provide material support to young asylum-seeker tertiary scholarship holders in Victoria. Since St Joseph's transition from the Project the Youth Plus Foundation have continued to manage and distribute these and further funds raised to provide comprehensive holistic support to these young people, helping ensure that the human potential and social inclusion nurtured by their scholarships is realised, for the good of individual young people and the Victorian community.

As it stands, the LSF has the capacity to support the existing cohort of asylum seeker students for the remainder of 2019 when the Youth Plus Foundation Board will consider its options to move the fund to a more suitable, local provider.

## **HILDEBRAND BENEFICIARY**

The Hildebrand Beneficiary, sponsors of the Youth+ Greg Hildebrand Award continues to be an integral process on the Youth Plus Foundation calendar each year. The Award, established to honour the life of Greg Hildebrand (1970 - 2010) encourages Flexible Learning Centres to apply for \$5000 each year to support the development and delivery of innovative projects/programs that honours the life and passion of Greg Hildebrand for the direct benefit of young people.

This important series of events and activities are now documented within the FLC and can be now incorporated into the yearly rhythm of the school with the capacity to be shared across FLCs into the future.

The relationship between the Hildebrand Family and the Foundation is highly valued. We extend our sincere thanks to the Hildebrand Family for providing such an important opportunity to our FLCs across Australia.

In 2018, the Mt Isa Flexible Learning Centre were the successful recipients of the Hildebrand Award to initiate their Mowing and Garden Maintenance Service. The project involved planning, seeding and implementation of a curriculum bases lawn mowing social enterprise. This began as an in-class discussion before being supported to move into early stages by way of strong community support also

through an in-kind donation from Young People Ahead Youth and Community Services Inc. Young people considered what resources they would need, visited local suppliers, researched the local lawing mowing services market, created radio advertisements and flyers and successfully gained customers through phone bookings and volunteered their time performing the service to a number of customers in community. This grant has been spent and acquitted by the team at Mt Isa FLC.

## **YOUTH PLUS FOUNDATION NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

2018 has continued to see the Foundation expand its National Campaign 'Hook into Books' by working more closely with Ambassador Samantha Wheeler and introducing a Grand Slam Edition of the yearly 'Catch-a-flexi-reader' activity. The Grand Slam Edition was supported by a \$1000 prize approval by the Board to be distributed to a Flexible Learning Centre with active engagement in the activity to purchase reading resources for their centre.

In 2018, Southport FLC were the successful recipients of the 'Catch-a-flexi-reader' activity. Hook into Books still focusses on raising public awareness of young people with interrupted education journeys who have low levels of literacy.

2019 is focused on bringing a recruiting a number of campaign Champions to further raise this awareness and building in new aspects of the campaign including a Young Writers Workshop and Traveling Suitcase.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

The 3-year strategic direction of the Foundation set out by the Board of Management provides scope for increasing partnerships, raising funds and establishing some points of difference that will ensure that the Foundation stands out amongst its competitors draws to a close in 2019. Beyond this, the Board will re-evaluate its direction and priorities.

### Of importance moving into 2019/20

- Embed 'Hook into Books' National Campaign into the core business of Foundation and recruit Campaign Champions.
- Broaden the scope and implement a National Ambassador Program
- Broaden the Grant Writing Workshop Series for Flexible Learning Networks
- Continue to support the Living Support Fund
- Broaden Hildebrand Award Program
- Seek further funding opportunities to support and advance the purpose of the Youth Plus Foundation and Flexible Learning Centres Nationally.
- Seek collaboration opportunities i.e. ERFA