



# DISCO Beat!

March – April  
Edition 2014

*'Partnering schools, linking with business, supporting youth'*

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*DISCO appreciates the support provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments*



Australian Government  
Department of Education



QUEENSLAND  
GOVERNMENT

## Mike's Column

Well I'm determined to start my first editorial this year on a positive note!

I'm delighted to see the first enrolments of young people under our Jobs through Education and Training (JET) program which is funded under the Queensland Government's Community Learning initiative. This new funding will see more than 40 young people supported in our Dalby and Toowoomba offices. The young people will undertake a Certificate 2 in Workplace Practices as well as participate in personal development and career and employment preparation training as well as numerous other courses including First Aid, Responsible Service of Alcohol and White Card training. I wish all new clients success on this new program.

As a new year gets underway I'm pleased to welcome some new faces to our Dalby and Toowoomba offices. In Dalby we are delighted to welcome Noelene Byrnes who is the new Youth Training Program Coordinator and Emma Kaiteie who is the new Youth Support Coordinator. I wish both new ladies well as they embark on their careers at DISCO.

In Toowoomba I'm pleased to welcome Jobella Bennett and John Hewitt. Jobella will be undertaking a role from our James St office supporting young people undertaking our Youth Connections and JET programs. John has commenced as the organisations Business Development Officer and will work alongside myself and the Management Committee providing support with marketing, tender writing and business analysis. I welcome both Jo and John to the DISCO family.

Nearly all team members had a break over the Christmas / New Year period and in January we have focused on our planning for 2014 and undertaking training to prepare us for a busy year. A lot of work has also been done to update our policies for the year ahead to ensure our organisation is compliant.

DISCO is eagerly awaiting the outcome of the recommissioning process conducted by the State Government. This information will outline how or if the government will offer support for young people throughout Queensland and is critically important to non-government organisations like DISCO, as it allows us to tender for funds to support young people in our community.

DISCO is also lobbying the new federal government for continued funding for support and met with local federal MP and Minister for Industry, Ian Macfarlane in late February. The meeting was attended by DISCO President Neil Davy and Youth Connections National Network Executive Officer Rebekha Sharkie. It was important to highlight the work undertaken in the community by DISCO generally and the significant impact that the federally funded Youth Connections program has had across the region and across Australia since commencing in 2010.

I'm keen to remind all school leavers that DISCO will start contacting all of those who registered for support in late 2013 that our organisation will make contact in the coming weeks to identify if each individual has successfully transitioned into further education or employment. We are keen to provide support or assist young people to be referred to our education or employment partners to make sure they get underway to achieve their employment or study goals. If you know someone who may not have registered or who could benefit from this assistance, please get them to contact our head office on 07 46383088.

Well I wish everyone a successful 2014 and look forward in the near future to touching base with our community, education and employment partners throughout the year.

**Mike Paton - CEO**

We're on the Web!  
Visit our Website  
[www.disco.org.au](http://www.disco.org.au)

We're on Facebook!  
Visit our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/discoaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/discoaustralia)

## Dalby Doings

Another year is upon us and the Dalby DISCO office is in full swing. The team in Dalby has undergone a number of staff changes in 2014 with myself remaining as Office Manager and Janah O'Shea as our Youth Worker Trainee. Emma Kaiteie has joined our team in the part-time role of Youth Support Coordinator (servicing the Dalby State High School) and Noelene Byrnes has accepted the position of Youth Training Program Coordinator.

In 2014 we are trialing some changes with our Youth Training Program. Previously we have only had two intakes per year – one in semester one and the other in semester two. This year we will be having a rolling intake with young people joining the program on the first Monday of each month. Therefore, instead of the three day team building camp we will only hold a one day team building event each month. The venues may vary for these events between IONA, Lake Broadwater, Bunya Mountains and Thomas Jack Park. Our reward event will now take the form of a monthly laser skirmish and bbq event and not our bi-annual trip to Dreamworld.

Also new in 2014 is the addition of Community Learning funding which is a new initiative of the Queensland Government's reform action plan for further education and training – Great skills, Real opportunities. For those young people eligible to register in this program they will return on Thursday each week to complete a Cert II in Workplace Practices and possibly a First Aide Certificate, Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate or a White Card.

We have many activities planned in the coming months for our Youth Training Program including: personal development (including cooking, art, self-esteem, time management) construction and automotive workshops, retail and business workshops, Lifeline's Tree of Life program, industry tours and much much more.

This year has already started off to a very positive and exciting start and I look forward to keeping you up to date with all of our Dalby Doings throughout 2014.

**Le-Anne Callaghan-**  
Office Manager



## Youth Support Coordinator (YSCI) Update

It has been a delightful start to the year for the Youth Support Co-ordinator Initiative (YSCI) in Dalby as we get underway for 2014. The YSCI is continuing to bring much needed support to a number of Dalby State High School students here in Dalby on an individual basis and within small group settings.

Currently the YSCI is giving a group of year 10 girls the opportunity to participate in the 'Girls with a Purpose' program. This is a fantastic 11 week program aimed at empowering young women through activities and discussions that revolve around issues young women may face in today's world. The program endeavours to help young women gain more confidence, raise their self-esteem levels and add some tools to their life skills tool belt. We are also very excited about inviting guest speakers and instructors to work with this wonderful group of girls.

Another group being run through the YSCI at the moment is a Year 12 Engagement Group. This is a group consisting of year 12 students who may be at risk of graduating with no qualifications or QCE. The Year 12 Engagement Group meets once a week with the Youth Support Coordinator (YSC) and is given the opportunity to gain extra support where needed.

Commencing term 2 the YSC will be working alongside the Behaviour Support Teacher from Dalby State High to support the 'STRONG' program. This program will be run for year 8 and 9 students with the intention of helping them gain confidence within themselves and positive attitudes towards others.

With this kind of start to the year it's easy to feel great about what the remainder of 2014 will hold for young people involved with the Youth Support Coordinator Initiative.

**Emma Kaiteie -**  
Youth Support Co-ordinator

## Roma Wrap

Another year is upon us again and already the Roma DISCO office is in full swing.

After a well-earned Christmas break the staff are back on deck ready for a very busy first quarter.

Continuing funding for the PaCE Program has just been announced and we look forward to commencing activities for 2014.

Roma Team Leader, Toni Jeavons has made a strong start to the year, continuing to develop and strengthen relationships with local stakeholders particularly through the DISCO initiated Maranoa Youth Support Network that came together for the first time last October. The MYSN had their first meeting for 2014 this month and are underway with plans for our first Community initiative, "Roma's Big Day Out" with a specific activities and events to target and draw in the disengaged youth of Roma.

Toni is also working in collaboration with the Roma Senior College, St John's School and the Mitchell School facilitating support for young people that are at risk of disengaging from education. This is addressing a range of issues including family conflict, self-esteem and bullying and Toni has also been working closely with the Roma PCYC surveying youth in the community and addressing the 'Needs of Youth' in the region as a part of the new "Youth Hub" that is to be established at the PCYC at the end of this year.

I will continue to be based in the Toowoomba office with regular visits to the Roma community and a Charleville visit later in the Semester.

An exciting start to the year and I look forward to keeping you up to date with all our Roma Wrap throughout the rest of 2014.

Leisa Finch -  
Roma Office Manager



## headspace to touch down soon

DISCO like a number of organisations in Toowoomba is looking forward to the arrival of *headspace* in Toowoomba.

What is *headspace*?

*headspace* offers specific services for people aged 12-25 who are going through a tough time.

*headspace* can help with all sorts of issues like relationship break ups, exam stress, peer pressure, bullying and depression. Whatever the issue is, *headspace* offers a confidential, professional service to help young people to move forward with confidence.

DISCO CEO Mike Paton commented "It's very exciting to know that by the end of this year *headspace* will be a reality for Toowoomba and DISCO as a local agency supporting youth is looking forward to working with the successful tenderer. Our community needs the support of *headspace* and we are overdue for additional resourcing to support young people who face mental health problems. For too long our region has struggled under the weight of insufficient service provision and resourcing and for some time DISCO has been concerned that young people have missed out on the very specific services and support that a *headspace* site can offer".

To learn more about *headspace* you can visit <http://www.headspace.org.au/>

## Brotherhood of St Laurence Highlights youth disconnection

A recent report from the Brotherhood of St Laurence has highlighted some very concerning data related to the disconnection of young people.

The organisation recently released their survey of Australian youth unemployment titled: Australian Youth Unemployment 2014: Snapshot.

The report makes for alarming reading and highlights the high rate of youth unemployment across Australia.

Our region was not spared the bad news with the Toowoomba region showing an unemployment rate for 13 – 24 year olds of 12.7% and the South West did not fare much better with a rate of 9.8%. The Toowoomba rate is nearly double the adult rate of unemployment and DISCO is concerned that with many young people not registered with Centrelink, the real figure may in fact be much higher.

For more information and to see the detailed report you can visit:

[http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/MyChanceOurFuture\\_Youth\\_unemployment\\_snapshot\\_Feb2014.pdf](http://www.bsl.org.au/pdfs/MyChanceOurFuture_Youth_unemployment_snapshot_Feb2014.pdf)

## James St News

James Street has been busy this year with the continuation of the Youth Connections Program and the commencement of the full time Community Learning Program funded through the Queensland Government. Also at the James St office we have commenced delivery of the Health Development and Growth in Teenagers program funded by Darling Downs South West Queensland Medicare Local.

We have a new group of young people for the year and we are offering Personal Development, Cooking, Art, Trade, Literacy and Numeracy, Sport, Healthy Lifestyles, Work Experience, the Certificate II in Workplace Practices, Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificate and the Construction White Card.

This year we will be working closely with Toowoomba Youth Service and PCYC with sporting activities which include Rock and Water and Community Youth Games. Already in 2014 we have had Legal Aid along with the Advocacy and Support Centre to deliver a presentation to our cohort, along with Guest Speakers inspiring our young people to follow their dreams and achieve their goals.

As well as running programs at the Alternative Learning Facility, we have staff at Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton and Mt Lofty Campus and at St Saviour's College supporting youth and developing programs that focus on issues such as Self Esteem, Bullying, Anger, Relationships and Goal Setting.

We would like to acknowledge and thank St Vincent de Paul for their generous donation of furniture for our building which has gone a long way to making our Alternative Learning Facility Youth more comfortable and youth friendly.

James Street continues to support a cross section of local young people individually and if you are aware of anyone who may need support please call for more information on (07) 4632 9065.

Kym Baills -  
Office Manager

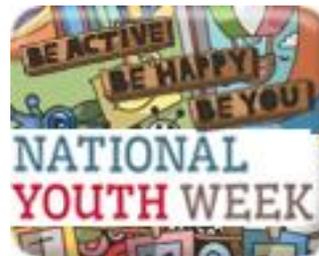


# Dr Dan's Top Ten tips for good Career Choices



- 1) **Begin with your Values** – *What's important to you?*
- 2) **Identify your Skills and Talents** – *What comes naturally?*
- 3) **Identify your Preferences** – *What do you enjoy doing?*
- 4) **Experiment** – *Have a go and test your career options!*
- 5) **Learn about Business** – *Investigate work places to understand them better!*
- 6) **Go for Experience First...Money Second!** – *The money will come it's more important to be happy in your choice of work!*
- 7) **Aim for a Job where you can be 110% Committed** – *The harder you work the luckier you will become!*
- 8) **Build your Lifestyle around your Income.....not you Expectations** – *You can't get the big bucks until you have the big skills!*
- 9) **Invest 5% of your Time, Energy and Money into Furthering your Career.** – *This will give you the best chance at a bright future!*
- 10) **Be Willing to Change and Adapt** – *When the going gets tough the tough get going!*

## Activities & Events!



**Staff Profile-  
Taleah  
Campbell**

<b>Toowoomba</b>	
National Youth Week	4 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> April
For more activities happening around the place visit, <a href="http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/community-services/youth-and-children/youthconnect">http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/community-services/youth-and-children/youthconnect</a>	

To learn more about these events you can contact the  
 Toowoomba office on (07) 4638 3088,  
 Dalby office on (07) 4662 2147 or  
 Roma office on (07) 4622 3311

Hi, I am Taleah Campbell and I am the Receptionist for the Station Street office.

I have lived in Toowoomba my whole life and graduated from St Joseph's College in 2011.

I started working for DISCO in 2012 after signing up to DISCO's Youth Employment Support (YES) Program.

Since starting at DISCO I have completed my Certificate 3 in Business Administration and currently studying a Certificate 4 in Business Administration.

### Quote of the Quarter

*"When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life."*

- John Lennon

### Joke in the Corner

A champion jockey is about to enter an important race on a new horse. The horse's trainer meets him before the race and says, "All you have to remember with this horse is that every time you approach a jump, you have to shout, "ALLLLEEE OOOOP!" really loudly in the horse's ear. Providing you do that, you'll be fine."

The jockey thinks the trainer is mad but promises to shout the command. The race begins and they approach the first hurdle. The jockey ignores the trainer's ridiculous advice and the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

They carry on and approach the second hurdle. The jockey, somewhat embarrassed, whispers "Aleeee ooop" in the horse's ear. The same thing happens - the horse crashes straight through the center of the jump.

At the third hurdle, the jockey thinks, "It's no good, I'll have to do it," and yells, "ALLLEEE OOOOP!" really loudly. Sure enough, the horse sails over the jump with no problems. This continues for the rest of the race, but due to the earlier problems the horse only finishes third.

The trainer is fuming and asks the jockey what went wrong. The jockey replies, "Nothing is wrong with me - it's this bloody horse. What is he - deaf or something?"

The trainer replies, "Deaf?? DEAF?? He's not deaf - he's BLIND!"