



DISCO Beat!

July – August
Edition 2013

'Partnering schools, linking with business, supporting youth'

CONTACT US



8 Station Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Ph: (07) 4638 3088



129 James Street
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Ph: (07) 4632 9065



169 Cunningham Street
Dalby QLD 4405
Ph: (07) 4662 2147



Cnr McDowall &
Hawthorne Sts
Roma QLD 4455
Ph: (07) 4622 3311

DISCO appreciates the support provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments



Funding High's & Low's

This year has been a rollercoaster when it comes to the way DISCO is funded. As an independent, not-for-profit, incorporated youth agency, we are not and have never been in receipt of permanent funding from government. Although we have received funding from all levels of government in the past, this has never been guaranteed. Our funding has always originated through tender applications or contracts and from the sale of resources.

Later this year DISCO will lose its longest running funded program when the Youth Support Co-ordinator (YSC) program completes on the 31st of December. This long association with both the Department of Communities and the Department of Education has seen Youth Support Coordinator staff work with over 8,000 young people in schools and has had a focus to help young people to remain in education. From 2014 this funding will return to individual Education Queensland schools and Principals will determine if this funding will be used in their respective school to undertake similar work or be focused on other priorities. I want to acknowledge all of the staff who have supported young people during the life of this contract. They have done amazing work and we have numerous stories of young people who have gone on to finish school and university who attribute their capacity to achieve to the support provided by a YSC. This year, although losing the YSC contract, we are focused on tendering for new work. Since March we have applied for funding through organisations like Medicare Local, Australia Post, Suncorp, the National Crime Prevention Fund and local

Councils. We are currently finalising a career development tender with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and are hopeful of success as we believe that this initiative will go a long way to help support schools, young people, adults and employers across the South West community.

Over the last few months we have lost and gained some new DISCO team members. I want to acknowledge the work of Nikki Gallatly one of our Youth Support Co-ordinators in the Toowoomba office who has moved on to new challenges with Mercy Family Services and thank her for her terrific work. Amanda Lacey our Team Leader in the Roma office who has done a brilliant job supporting Office Manager Leisa Finch and has commenced working at the Roma State College and Helen Wise who has recently completed working as the Youth Training Program coordinator in the Dalby office. I want to thank all ladies for their commitment over many years supporting young people and DISCO. It's also great to welcome some new faces with Andrew Taylor joining the team as a YSC in the Toowoomba office, Leonard Manuel who has started as the new Youth Training Program Co-ordinator in the Dalby office and Team leader Toni Jeavons who has commenced in the Roma office. I wish these new team members well as they commence their respective careers with DISCO.

I look forward to catching up with you in schools or in the community.

Mike Paton- CEO

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www.facebook.com/discoaustralia

Our Youth Training Program for Semester 1 2013 graduated on the 20th of June 2013. Whilst the overall numbers in this program were low our total registrations were quite high. This is due to the fact that we supported a lot more young people in a one-on-one capacity with fewer attending the daily program.

I would like to thank the Dalby team for some fantastic outcomes.

- 6 young people have enrolled in accredited training courses-
 - 1 x Cert III in Retail 2 x Cert II in Business 2 x Cert III in Business
 - 1 x Cert III in Children's Services
- 2 clients have entered the workforce
- 4 remained in full-time school (with support)
- 1 client has returned to full-time school

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our major stakeholders.

- Dalby State High School
- Warwick Credit Union for sponsoring our ESSI money budgeting program
- Dalby Lions Club for their donation which enables us to take clients to Youth Insearch camps
- Local Businesses who supported our Industry Tours:
 - Simplicity
 - Black Toyota
 - Kogan Creek Mine and Power Station
 - Dalby RSL
 - Big W
 - Golden West Employment
 - Downs Group Training – TradeAbility Van
 - Dalby TAFE – Vehicle Awareness Training
 - Goondir Health
 - Lifeline Dalby
 - Dalby Scouts for their donation to support our graduation
 - Dalby PCYC – gym

I would also like to welcome Leisa Finch back into the role of Youth Support Co-ordinator for the remainder of 2013 whilst Casey is on maternity leave.

Le-Anne Callaghan - Office Manager



Youth Support Co-ordinator Update

Term two was action packed for the YSC team with many community projects taking place as well as regular in school support.

Stitch It, our holiday program for young people to engage with experienced sewing experts in design workshops, to create and present different fashion pieces that were displayed in Grand Central Shopping Centre, culminating in a fashion parade. Congratulation to Maddisen Cottell for taking out the overall competition and to Anita Jambunthan and Victoria Harris for winning the junior and senior people's choice section. Stitch It is a result of Project 11 in conjunction with DISCO, Toowoomba Regional Council and Toowoomba Youth Service.

Project 11 also presented an Introductory Barista Workshop to the young people in the community which was run at St. Saviour's College. It was a fantastic learning experience for the young people involved and these skills will be extremely beneficial for the students to gain a leg up in looking for employment while studying, or even after they have finished school.

This year, unlike others, the YSC team combined young women, men and indigenous leadership days into one and was simply called the Young Leadership Day. The day was a huge success with a number of students representing many high schools across Toowoomba and the Darling Downs attending. A variety of speakers offered their time and experience to speak with the students. DISCO would like to thank all those who attended and supported the youth of our region.

The YSC team said farewell to Nikki Gallatly at the end of last term and wish her career continued success in her new field with Andrew Taylor taking on the YSC position from the beginning of Term 3.

Leisa Finch- Team Leader

The Youth Connections Alternative Learning Facility graduated 9 young people on the 20th of June 2013. Congratulations to all the young people who graduated. During the semester the young people participated in Rock and Water Classes held at PCYC which were facilitated by Joe Hess, a Mental Health Workshop, Indoor Rock Climbing, Personal Development, Art, Cooking, Literacy and Numeracy, a Drug and Alcohol workshop presented by ATODS and Teen Challenge, Sport, and the Young Leadership Day presented by the Youth Support Coordinator Team. They all completed their Safety Sense Certificate and they worked on their Construction White Card and Responsible Service of Alcohol Certificates.

Thank you to Leigh James from the Toowoomba Police Station who came and spoke with our young people.

Along with running this program, we have also had the privilege of providing group work and one on one support to students in the following schools: - Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton Campus, Toowoomba State High School Mount Lofty, Pittsworth State High School and Saint Saviours Secondary College. Thank you to these schools for allowing us into your school and for supporting our program.

Youth Connections is currently taking referrals for Semester 2, if you are aware of anyone who may need support please call for more information on (07) 4632 9065.

Kym Baills – Office Manager

Activities & Events!

Toowoomba		
YC- Semester 2 commences	James Street Office	24 th July
Dalby		
Youth Training Program- Semester 2 commences	Dalby Office	29 th July

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



Roma Wrap

Roma office says a fond farewell to our Team Leader Amanda Lacey. Amanda has been an integral member of the Roma team and a major factor in the success of the Roma office since the commencement of services in 2010. Amanda is now ready to move into a new chapter of her working life and on behalf of the DISCO team I would like to wish Amanda all the very best in her new endeavours.

I warmly welcome Toni Jeavons who will take on the Team Leader position bringing with her new ideas and experiences. Debbie Murphy is busy coordinating a number of PaCE parent development workshops including Drumbeat and Equine Facilitated Groundwork Therapy. For more information, please contact Debbie at the Roma office on 4622 3311.

Leisa Finch- Team Leader



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Top 10 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 your 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!



Staff Profile- Lisa Murr

My name is Lisa Murr and I am a Youth Support Coordinator working for DISCO and I'm based in the Station Street office. I have lived in Toowoomba for most of my life, except for a few years when I had moved with my family to Warwick, however but we soon returned. I finished my schooling at Harristown High School in 2008 with a plan of heading to university and completing my Bachelor of Education however, I soon realised that teaching was not for me. I prefer to work in a supportive and personal way with young people which is not easy to do as a teacher as there are certain barriers of authority that naturally come with the job. I started my youth work career in 2010 working at TSHS-Mt. Lofty campus as a Chaplain and in 2011 started with DISCO and have been here ever since.

I work part time, three days a week, and the rest of my week is filled with the 'joy' of studying. I am a full time student at USQ studying my Bachelor of Social Science, Majoring in Social Justice and Behavioural Science. I do really enjoy it and even though studying can be painfully tedious. I see the benefits of this degree to help attain my future goal to continue working in social welfare for different organisations globally. I take part in many community projects and events DISCO runs such as the Young Leadership Day, Project 11 and I work in several schools in the region. I enjoy music and am lucky enough to play in a local band. I have used my passion for music to connect with young people and help them in many ways. One example is the Baseline Beats Program organised through Project 11. I enjoy working at DISCO with great, supportive staff, diverse and helpful educators and the many unique young people I encounter on a daily basis with great potential, hopes and goals.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

'Nothing can stop the person with the right mental attitude from achieving their goal; nothing on earth can help the person with the wrong mental attitude'. Thomas Jefferson

JOKE IN THE CORNER

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times. When she is about to hand him another batch again, he asks the little old lady, "Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself?" "We can't chew them because we've got no teeth," she replied. The puzzled driver asks, "Why do you buy them then?" The old lady replied, "We just love the chocolate around them."