



March News

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Welcome to another edition of the bi-monthly VYMA News. We always welcome feedback and ideas on content.

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News from the VYMA

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust supports Alliance for next 3 years

The Helen Macpherson Smith Trust has continued to demonstrate its support for youth mentoring in Victoria through a commitment to partially fund the VYMA for the next 3 years. The Trust's commitment to youth mentoring is also demonstrated through their ongoing support of three regional coordination projects in Barwon South West, Loddon Mallee and Hume.

Support from the Trust has enabled the VYMA to begin recruitment of an Executive Officer who will take the VYMA into the next phase in its strategic pathway to ensure the successful implementation of sustainable and high quality mentoring practices in regional and urban communities.



New Chair for VYMA

In August 2008 the Board of Management co-opted assistance from Michael Poulton from Glenvern Associates to undertake a strategic review and planning process. He has a strong on Strategic business development and operational performance and has a particular interest in the Not for Profit Sector. Michael has since been invited to Chair the Board and will commence this role immediately.

VYMA Board of Management

President: Michael Poulton - Glenvern Associates

Vice President: Paul Mathewson - Big Brothers, Big Sisters Melbourne
(new appointment)

Secretary and Public Officer: Mick Murphy - Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network) (ongoing appointment)

Treasurer: David Roche - South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN (ongoing appointment)

Director: Sue Fowler - Marybryng and Moonee Valley LLEN (outgoing President)

Director: Lyn Simmons - Berry Street Victoria (ongoing appointment)

Director: Mark Watt - Whitelion (ongoing appointment)



Strategic Process Underway

The VYMA is at a key milestone in its strategic pathway. While our focus is to be recognised as an effective representative body advocating with and on behalf of the Youth Mentoring Sector in Victoria, we are currently undertaking a major review to ensure the ongoing relevance of our activities.

VYMA Consultation Findings

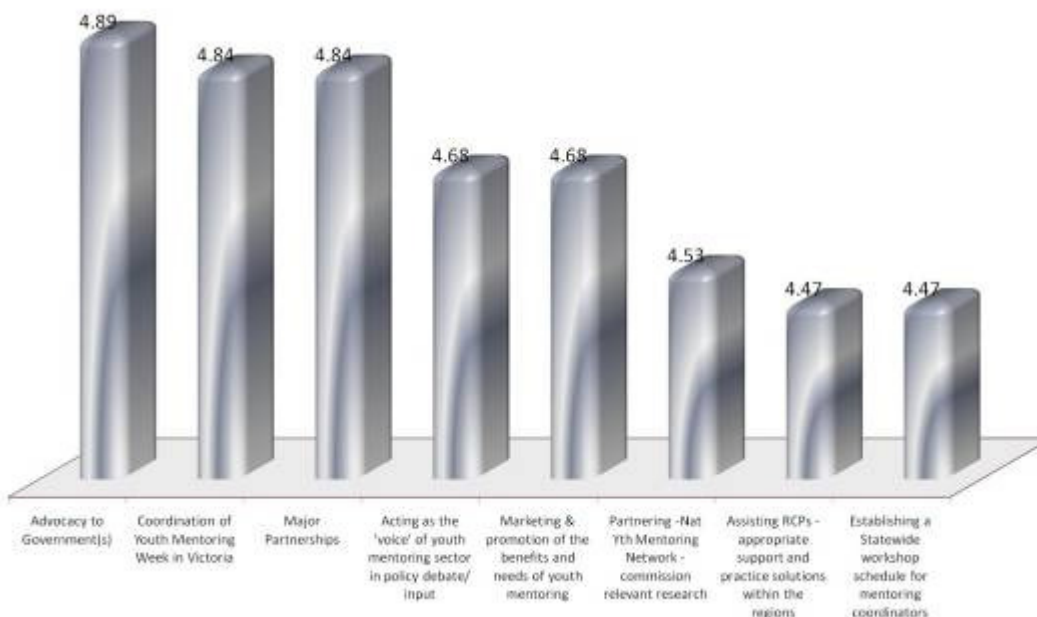
In December 2009 the VYMA undertook a stakeholder consultation to aid in our strategic review process. Nineteen stakeholders from a broad demographic of individuals and organisations involved in the youth mentoring sector took part in the survey and interview based consultation.

Key findings included:

- More than 50% of respondents felt that they had a limited opportunity to input meaningfully to matters relative to the youth mentoring sector
- 50% of respondents saw that administration adversely impacted on hands on time
- 70% of respondents indicated that they often worked outside of work hours
- A significant number of respondents felt the need for increased support
- Program sustainability was identified as a major issue as many stakeholders experience uncertainty regarding forward funding
- There are limited resources for those working alone, based in rural settings and or small organisations
- There is concern regarding the limited profile of Youth Mentoring in attracting sponsors
- The majority of funding comes from Government with limited funding support from philanthropic/ business especially for small organisations

The majority of stakeholders saw the continuance of Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance and expansion of its role as of major importance (rating 4.82 out of a total of 5).

Rating of Some Potential VYMA Activities (out of 5)



Respondents strongly supported the following future roles:

1. Advocacy to government & acting as the 'voice' of youth mentoring sector in policy debate/ input
2. Coordination of major events and partnerships
3. Marketing and promotion of benefits and needs of youth mentoring
4. Evaluation, data collection and research
5. Support of Regional Coordination Projects and workshops across the state
6. Coordination of a sector approach to Business engagement

Roles to be further explored included:

1. Coordination of a sector approach to Philanthropic orgs
2. Developing accredited training for mentor coordinators across Victoria
3. Partnering with Victorian research institutes to generate Victoria specific Research
4. Developing a mentoring 'help line' for access by practitioners across Victoria
5. Developing a quality assurance or 'program accreditation' model

The results from this consultation will form the basis of VYMA's Strategic Plan to be developed over the coming months.

President Obama Promotes Mentoring

The 19 December 2008 edition of *The New York Times* included a public service advertisement showing President-elect Barack Obama encouraging readers to "Be the change: mentor a child."

Let's hope some of our senior politicians follow Obama's lead and strengthen their support for youth mentoring across Australia.

For full text of the article, go to *The New York Times* online.



Mentor Wins Baw Baw Citizen of the Year



Dorothy Hoare with article authors
Mick Murphy & Kate Boyer (Baw Baw LLEN)

Dorothy Hoare was recently awarded the Baw Baw Citizen of the Year for 2009 at an Australia Day ceremony. Dorothy has been and continues to be a most significant supporter and advocate for young people in Gippsland, not only through her many and varied roles in the Trafalgar community, but also as a highly respected and well regarded leader in the community. Dorothy has been able to make a significant and long lasting positive impact on young people and families.

Dorothy has been instrumental in the establishment and development of the highly successful Trafalgar Youth mentoring program. As a direct consequence of her commitment, a significant number of young people have been supported by a team of mentors in the Trafalgar community. This program benefits not only the young people involved but also the volunteer mentors and the whole community. Dorothy has also been instrumental in the training of mentors at a regional level.

Past present and future generations of young people in Trafalgar are significantly better off as a result of a lifetime commitment to young people by Dorothy Hoare.

New Research

Moodie, M. L. and Fisher, J (2009) '**Are Youth Mentoring Programs Good Value-for-money? An Evaluation of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Melbourne Program**', BMC Public Health



A recent cost benefit analysis of the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program shows that youth mentoring is excellent 'value for money'. To find out more visit the "Research (Journals)" section of www.youthmentoring.org.au

Mentoring identified as an effective strategy for increasing student engagement and retention

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) VIC, Youth Transitions Division commissioned the University of Melbourne to conduct research into strategies to increase school completion. Two pieces of work were produced:

1. Effective Strategies to Increase School Completion (Nov 08)
2. A Guide to Help Schools Increase School Completion (Nov 08)

Both publications are available for download via the DEECD website:



<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/sensecyouth/careertrans/EffectiveStrategies.htm>

Programs Seeking Assistance

SHINE for Kids Victoria Mentoring Program is currently recruiting mentors

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in supporting, in a very direct and empowering way, a child with a parent in the criminal justice system.

An information session on the role of a mentor with the new Victorian SHINE for Kids Mentoring Program will be held on Wednesday 11 March 2009 starting 6.00 PM at YACVIC, Level 2/ 172 Flinders Street opposite Fed Square.

For more information contact Guy Hatfield at ghatfield@shineforkids.org.au or on 0414 816 093



SHINE for Kids

Mission Australia Seeking Traineeships for Sudanese young people

Mission Australia's Getting to Work Program supports young people from culturally diverse backgrounds to enter the workforce and develop meaningful career pathways. Young people are provided with a community mentor.



Mission Australia

Getting to Work is looking for a variety of traineeships in council departments and not-for-profit organisations in Dandenong and surrounds. The funding provides for \$9000 per placement to the employer of each trainee.

For more information contact Rosemary Nelson at nelsonr@missionaustralia.com.au or on 9213 2500

Free Funding Submission Reviews

Granted is a not-for-profit organisation that provides advice to community sector organisations that are developing funding applications. They focus on assisting organisations that aim to make a positive social or environmental impact but which have limited resources to seek funding.

Granted provides a fresh perspective, comments on the strengths and weaknesses of submissions and suggestions for improvements. They won't write your submission, but they will certainly help you on your way.

Thanks to Sally Pannifex at the Stride Foundation for this lead

www.granted.org.au



Get Police Checks Completed Within 3 days

Organisations can now complete Police Checks faster, easier and more securely than ever before. If your organisation is either based in Victoria or has an office in Victoria, you may be able to utilise Crimcheck - the automated police checking service.

CrimCheck has been established by the Monash Volunteer Resource Centre to address the issue of getting quick and cost effective police checks for volunteers.

Thanks to Simon Kuut at Big Brother Big Sisters of Melbourne for details about this service

www.crimcheck.org.au



Skilled Volunteers for Specialist Support

The recent VYMA consultation survey found that program coordinators felt they needed more support. Why not get skilled volunteers on board to assist you? Volunteers can be found in:

- strategic and business planning
- marketing and fundraising
- databases and websites
- research
- organisational processes and procedures
- project management
- training
- event coordination
- sponsorship planning



Check out 'Skilled Volunteer: A Guide for Community Organisations' at the VCOSS clearinghouse www.vcooss.org.au/clearinghouse to find out more about the type of support available, examples of assistance provided and who to contact for information.

Upcoming Events

Noosa Mentor Summit 2009

Understanding and Communicating with Gen Y - with acclaimed author and psychologist, Andrew Fuller



Indulge a mentor in a weekend away to beautiful Noosa and allow them to enjoy the pristine beaches and scenery as well as gaining better insight into this generation, from one of Australia's most inspiring presenters.

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2009 **Time:** 10am until 1pm

Venue: Australis Noosa Lakes Resort, 3 Hilton Terrace, Noosaville, QLD, 4566

Fee: \$20 which includes all workshop materials, coffee/tea on arrival, morning tea and lunch.

RSVP: At www.youthmentoring.org.au/events.php

VYMA Practice Network

The network responds to the needs and interests of people who attend on the day. This month we will help you do a SWOT analysis of your program and combine forces to help solve any issues you might be having.

Date: THIS THURSDAY 5th March 2009 **Time:** 3:00-5:00pm (refreshments provided)

Venue: Darebin Arts Centre, Cnr Bell St & St Georges Rd, Preston

RSVP: To Sarah Johnson at s.johnson@youthmentoringvic.org.au

School Based Mentoring

A forum to explore building sustainable programs in schools

Find out how different programs 'do' school based mentoring. Hear about recent research into school based mentoring across Australia and find out how you can get more involved.

Date: Thursday 23rd April 2009

Time: 10:30am – 2:30pm (lunch provided)

Venue: Treacy Conference Centre 126 The Avenue, Parkville

RSVP: To s.johnson@youthmentoringvic.org.au

Cost: \$50 non members or \$35 members



Metropolitan Youth Mentoring Coffee Clubs

North West

Date: Wednesday 22nd April 2009 **Time:** 3:30-5:00pm

Venue: Hairy Canary 212 Little Collins St Melbourne

RSVP: to your host Bree Lamprell (ASISTA Mentoring Program - YWCA Victoria) on 8668 8153 or at asista@ywca.net

Inner South East

Date: Wednesday 15 April 2009 **Time:** 3:30-5:00pm

Venue: Orange Café 126 Chapel St Windsor

RSVP: to your host Allan Snashall (Bayside Youth Mentoring Programme - MacKillop FS on 9699 9177 or at allan.snashall@mackillop.org.au

Outer South East

Date: Wednesday 6th May 2009 **Time:** 3:00-4:30pm

Venue: Coffee Club L.2 Dandenong Plaza McCrae Street Dandenong (in front of Best & Less)

RSVP: to your host Rosemary Nelson on (03) 9213 2500 or at nelsonr@missionaustralia.com.au

in the sticks

GIPPSLAND

Gippsland Mentoring Alliance (GMA)
Co-ordinator: Kate Boyer - 5633 2868
kate.bblllen@dcsi.net.au

Dorothy Hoare, co-ordinator of the Trafalgar Youth Resource Centre, which supports three mentoring programs, is the Baw Baw Shire's citizen of the year.

Coming events

- Train the mentor trainer in East Gippsland. Sessions cover the core elements of the GMA training package. Kate has all the details.
 - Tuesday 24 March, Bairnsdale
 - Wednesday 25 March, Lakes Entrance

GRAMPIANS

Grampians Regional Mentoring Network
Co-ordinator: Sarah-Kate Brusey - 5336 5023
sarahkate@leadon.com.au

Sarah-Kate began as the new Grampians co-ordinator on Monday 16 February, replacing April Livesley, who is now running Lead On's L2P in Geelong.

BARWON SOUTH WEST

Co-ordinator: Rashmita Samrai - 5561 8820
rsamrai@brophy.org.au

Rashmita began as Barwon SW co-ordinator late last year after Damien Becker moved on. She is finding her feet and meeting people face to face. The model for Standing Tall, a school-based program in Hamilton, has been replicated in Camperdown with great success.

HUME

Make Mentoring Matter
Co-ordinator: Sue Watts - 5762 2880
swatts@nesay.com.au

Sue is compiling the *Yellow Pages of All Things Mentoring A - Z*.

REGIONAL UPDATES



LODDON MALLEE

Co-ordinator: Leigh Candy - 5440 1127
l.candy@stlukes.org.au

North Central LLEN, based in Charlton, are developing a new program in Buloke and Loddon Shires. Leigh hopes this program might be a model for isolated and sparsely populated areas.

Coming events

- Northwest Mentoring Co-operative meeting
 - Thursday 5 March, 11:00 am, Mildura
- Bendigo Mentoring Co-operative meeting
 - Friday 24 April, 10:30 am, Bendigo

Other regional news

The federal government has funded eight careers-oriented mentoring programs in Victoria. Each program will recruit and train 30 mentors to mentor 90 mentees per semester, beginning second semester 2009.

- Western Local Community Partnership
- Geelong Regional Vocational Education Council
- South West Learning
- Murray Mallee LLEN
- Careers Connection LCP
- Gippsland East
- Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN/LaTrobe Valley LCP