Computer Clubhouse Update

The Computer Clubhouse, a high tech digital studio where Tuggeranong youth collaborate with industry mentors to design, create, and pursue their passions.

Thanks to the generosity of Canberrans, the first ACT Computer Clubhouse is on track to open in March of this year.

The YWCA of Canberra and *Richardson Primary School* are working in partnership to establish and operate the Tuggeranong Clubhouse. The team who are driving the final planning stages are:

- Joanna Allebone, Director of Corporate Relations and Communications, YWCA of Canberra
- Fiona MacGregor, Director of Community Service, YWCA of Canberra
- Sherri Lake, Field Officer, Richardson Primary School

We are working to secure financial and in-kind support from a range of philanthropic, government and corporate sectors. In addition to seed funding from the *Commonwealth Government National Partnerships*, we have some very exciting partnerships that will contribute to the success of the Clubhouse, including:

Dimension Data will design and deploy the IT environment, and provide ongoing IT support to the Clubhouse. They are also hosting a charity ball on Saturday 5 April 2014, with a proportion of the proceeds going to the Clubhouse. Finally, a number of Dimension Data employees will be mentors in the Clubhouse.

CollabIT member organisations will provide mentorship to Clubhouse members, and will contribute hardware and software.

Microsoft donated equipment and software, and the Canberra team will mentor Clubhouse members.

HSBC Canberra will provide a cash donation and their employees will provide mentorship to Clubhouse members.

Lockheed Martin will provide a cash donation, as well as physical and virtual links to their *NexGen Cyber Innovation & Technology Centre* Australia (*NCITE*-AU).

The Public Education Foundation is establishing a scholarship for Clubhouse members to attend the bi-annual Global Teen Summit*.*

Meyer Vandenberg provided pro bono legal advice and the drawing up of agreements.

2CA will provide free radio advertising and mentorship.

Senior staff in the *NICTA Canberra Lab* will provide mentoring to Clubhouse members, and in their own time will contribute to training and support for the Clubhouse facility.

We are waiting to hear the outcome of a submission for funding under *The ACT Government Digital Canberra* initiative.

We are also engaging with *Telstra, Adobe, Canberra Data Centre, Coordinate, Content Group,* and *Apple* around ways in which they may be able to support the Clubhouse.

Much of this progress was made possible because of the passion and dedication of our steering committee: *Hala Batainah, Tony Henshaw, Greg Castle, Julian Barrington-Smith, Paul VanCampenHaut, Jason Borton*. Thank you!

2014 Key Dates

24 – 28 February 2014
Clubhouse Coordinator attends training in Boston (USA)

21 March 2014
Clubhouse doors open

5 April 2014
Dimension Data charity ball

September 2014
Official Clubhouse launch

We are also grateful for the sound advice and wonderful connections that our partners and friends have offered us. Each of you embodies the generosity and graciousness that is the Canberra spirit. Thank you!

The Clubhouse will operate out of the community room at Richardson Primary School, which is currently being transformed into a fun and inviting space. Painting, carpeting, electrical work, new furniture and equipment deployment will all happen in the coming weeks.

We've also appointed a Clubhouse Coordinator, who has a background in youth work and a passion for music and ICT. He will attend the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network Induction and Training week in Boston, USA next month.

So we're on track for opening the Clubhouse doors at the end of March, with our key priorities being: establishing connectivity to the room, raising $50,000 to cover ad-hoc costs incurred during the establishment phase of the project, and preparing to mobilise our networks!

Stay tuned for our February update!