Computer Clubhouse Update

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

Lego creations from school outreach

PCs being installed at the Computer Clubhouse

We're pleased to let you know that the doors to the YWCA Computer Clubhouse will open to our first group of young people next Friday 20 June!

Over the last couple of months, our Clubhouse Coordinator, Lach has been busy conducting outreach sessions with schools in Tuggeranong to spread the word and build relationships with young people. Lach has visited Calwell High, Namadgi Primary School, Richardson Primary and Lanyon High School, as well as chatting to young people at the Lanyon Youth and Community Centre. During these sessions, Lach has been getting creative with Lego, the MaKey MaKey and Scratch programming. The response so far has been amazing, with a heap of young people now eagerly waiting for the Clubhouse doors to open.

Last month Lach and the Clubhouse team attended a monthly staff meeting at EY to present the Computer Clubhouse concept and demonstrate the MaKey MaKey. The presentation was interactive and fun, and several EY staff have since expressed their interest in getting involved as mentors. School principals from the Tuggeranong region visited the Clubhouse space for a sneak preview, and heard about the exciting activities that Clubhouse Members will have the opportunity to engage in.

Our team has commenced working with Coordinate to develop marketing collateral, a website, and a communications strategy for the Clubhouse. Social media profiles are currently being constructed, and we're working on a broader online communications strategy with Content Group to ensure we share the Clubhouse story far and wide.

The Clubhouse team would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to the following partners and friends for their recent contributions to the project:

- Dimension Data, for raising over $15,000 for the Clubhouse at the Hands Across Canberra Ball. These funds have allowed us to source the initial suite of hardware and software for the Clubhouse to get up and running
- HSBC for providing a financial donation of $5000 to contribute to the ongoing operational costs of running the space
- The ACT Chamber of Commerce Partnership Broker for providing ongoing support and advocacy of the Clubhouse, which helped us to source additional hardware for the space
- Grant Bawden and the team at Intravision who provided the installation of cabling and electrical work for the Clubhouse at a below cost rate
- The Networks and Communications Services team at Shared Services ICT who supported the establishment of internet connectivity to the Clubhouse
- NICTA for donating a MakerBot Mini so that our members can learn about 3D printing
- Hala Batainah and the team at Microsoft for helping us source discounted software
- AARNet and ACTDE for their collective support in providing internet connectivity. The provision of Internet services is vital for enabling skill development in digital technologies.

We continue to focus our efforts on raising funds to cover establishment and ongoing costs, such as kitting out the audio and video production studio, and acquiring Macintosh and PC mobile devices such as laptops, iPads, tablets and desktop PCs with the capacity to run 3D animation and robotics software.

If you would like to find out more about partnership opportunities, please contact Joanna Allebone, Director of Corporate Relations and Communications at the YWCA of Canberra at: Joanna.allebone@ywca-canberra.org.au

If you or your colleagues are interested in finding out more about mentoring opportunities, please contact Lach Howarth at:

Lachlan.howarth@ywca-canberra.org.au

Key Dates 2014

20 June
- Clubhouse doors open

July-August
- Partners and friends are invited to take a tour of the space

Grand opening
- Details of the grand opening will be announced in the coming months. All partners will receive an invitation to attend.