YWCA Canberra Computer Clubhouse

COMPUTER CLUBHOUSE®
A Tuggeranong Youth Initiative

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

Polly Henry (Youth Engagement Officer, YWCA Canberra), Zoya Patel (Communications and Advocacy Officer, YWCA Canberra), Gail Breslow (Director, Intel Computer Clubhouse Network, Boston), Dale Rogers (Clubhouse Mentor), Jack (Clubhouse Member), Joanna Allebone (Director of Corporate Relations and Communications, YWCA Canberra), Cameron (Clubhouse Member), Lach Howarth (Clubhouse Coordinator), Stewart (Clubhouse Member) Sherri Lake (Principal a/g, Richardson Primary School), and Frances Crimmins (Executive Director, YWCA Canberra).

Grand Opening celebrations a resounding success

We're delighted to announce that YWCA Canberra launched the ACT's first Computer Clubhouse at a grand opening event on Friday 10 October!

Along with a host of corporate, philanthropic, government and community partners, YWCA Canberra celebrated the landmark event with its young Clubhouse members, and their families.

Media also took a keen interest, with ABC TV Canberra featuring the Clubhouse opening on its 7pm news bulletin, which was syndicated on ABC TV News nationally.

During the opening, Clubhouse members enjoyed demonstrating their new technology skills to guests, including staff from the Australian Federal Police, Dimension Data, Lockheed Martin Australia, Microsoft, HSBC, the Snow Foundation, and CollabIT.

Gail Breslow, Director of the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network, travelled from Boston to attend and speak at the festivities, and was impressed by what she saw.

In her speech, Ms Breslow emphasised the 'soft' skills that Clubhouse members learn as part of the program's ethos, including collaboration, how to action an idea, and taking a project from conceptualisation through to completion.

Open to all young people in the Tuggeranong region between the ages of 10 and 18, the Computer Clubhouse provides a creative and collaborative out-of-school learning environment.

Once signed up as Clubhouse Members, young people have free access to cutting edge technology, as well as connecting them with professional mentors who guide and support young people to pursue their passions.

YWCA Canberra's Executive Director, Frances Crimmins said the Clubhouse provides a unique opportunity to bridge the digital divide and provide an opportunity for all young people to have access to technology.

"The ultimate goal of the Clubhouse is to connect young people in Tuggeranong to professional development opportunities with ICT organisations in Canberra, and future employment through the program's mentors and industry partners."

The Clubhouse is located in Richardson, a Canberra suburb that has the highest number of people in the ACT (24%) who fall into the most disadvantaged 20% of all 15-64 year old Australians.

"This innovative program allows us to re-engage young people in education and in their community. It's also an accessible space for vulnerable young people, young women and girls, and young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds," Ms Crimmins said.

Founded in 1993, the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network is a partnership

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James Penton (Dimension Data), Harold Blake (Dimension Data), Sergeant Joanne Cameron, (AFP), and Commander David Pryce (ACT Policing).

Clubhouse Member, Yayei, confidently participating in an interview with the local ABC TV News crew.

of Intel, MIT Media Laboratory, and the Flagship Computer Clubhouse at the Museum of Science in Boston.

The program will link young Canberrans to this international network of more than 100 Clubhouses, in 20 countries across the world.

The YWCA Computer Clubhouse currently offers facilities and mentoring in graphic and web design, 3D modelling and printing, robotics, digital photography and imaging, and game design.

To find out more and to connect with us via social media visit:

- www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au
- www.twitter.com/YWCA_CCH
- www.facebook.com/YWCAComputerClubhouse

To explore how your organisation can get involved with the Computer Clubhouse, contact Joanna Allebone, YWCA Canberra Director of Corporate Relations and Communications at:
joanna.allebone@ywca-canberra.org.au

NEWS ABC

Computer Clubhouse targets digital deprivation in Canberra

**By Siobhan Heanue
Article originally published on ABC News online, 10 Oct 2014**

Computers and smart tablets are ubiquitous in many Canberra schools, but there are pockets of the city where digital deprivation is a problem.

A new program in Tuggeranong in Canberra's south is giving disadvantaged kids access to the most cutting edge technology, in the hope that it will spark their creativity and hunger for learning.

Anyone under 18 years old who lives in the area can take part in the YWCA-run program, which is run out of a classroom at Richardson Primary School.

Student Jack Engel, 12, said he was impressed by the range of software and hardware on offer at the Clubhouse.

"Especially when you first rock up and you don't know what to do and you've got to get someone to help you," he said.

Families, mentors and ACT police are on board with the plan to provide children who live in Canberra's outer reaches with things they would otherwise go without.

YWCA Canberra executive director Frances Crimmins said there was a need for a place for young people to come outside of school.

"It provides the latest technology, and pathways into scientific technology, engineering and mathematics," she said.

"It's not just about the doing and how to write programs its the soft skills how to work in a team, learning how to create a project and how to finish that project."

Ms Crimmins said digital poverty was alive and well in Canberra.

"In this day and age if you don't have access to technology you really can be left behind," she said.
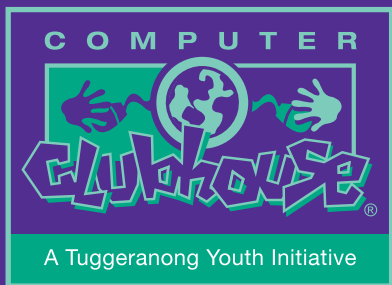
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Thomas (Clubhouse Member), creating with LittleBits

Clubhouse Member experimenting with Leap Motion

Lance (Clubhouse Member) and Polly Henry, (Youth Engagement Officer, YWCA Canberra)

"The jobs available for the next generation will involve technology."

The model was imported from Boston, United States, where the first program was set up 20 years ago.

"Even back then there was a growing divide between people who had access to tech and people who didn't," Computer Clubhouse Network director Gail Breslow said.

"The idea is to empower people to use technology for creative expression."

Ms Breslow said the program aimed to give children the necessary skills to follow their passion.

"They're learning how to take the idea of a project and bring it to fruition," she said.

"Project-management skills, collaboration skills, communication skills, teamwork, they're learning about problem solving and trouble shooting."

The centre was set up with private funding and donations of top-shelf gear.

On offer are equipment for graphic design, web development, robotics and video production.

"I've been learning how to model and how to 3D print," student Yayei Otuk, 10, said.

But mentor Dale Rogers said computer skills were just the start of what children can learn at the centre.

"They can learn how to be focused and action-based, set themselves a target," he said.

"Everybody loves a successful project and the kids that come here are no different.

"The real power of this technology is that it's so hands-on and it shows the beginning to the end of building something in a short period of time."

It is hoped the program could help create the programmers and engineers of the future.

Read the original article online here: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-10-10/computer-clubhouse-targets-digital-deprivation-in-canberra/5806042

Thank you to our latest contributors

The YWCA Computer Clubhouse team would like to sincerely thank the following organisations for their very generous contributions:

Lockheed Martin Australia

Earlier this month we were excited to receive a $20,000 donation from Lockheed Martin Australia (LMA), so that we can create a purpose-built audio and video production suite!

Snow Foundation

The team at the Snow Foundation generously granted us $20,000 to support the Clubhouse operations. These funds are vital to ensuring we can continue to support our team in the future.

The Good Guys, Tuggeranong

Julian Barrington-Smith and The Good Guys at Tuggeranong provided us with brand new wide-screen computer monitors. These were on the top of the request list from Clubhouse Members, so thank you!

YWCA Canberra Computer Clubhouse

October 2014

Murray Barton (Video Production Manager, Coordinate), shooting on-site for the Computer Clubhouse video

Coordinate

Over the last few months the Clubhouse team and Members have been working with Coordinate to develop a brand new website and video, to better share our story.

A big thanks to Murray, Jamie, Briege and Andrew, who have donated their time, talents and resources to make this project a reality. If you haven't yet seen the video, you can find it at the Clubhouse website:

www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au

Sliced Tech

The generous folk at Sliced Tech donated $1000 to add to our resource kitty for equipment purchases and upgrades.

Women in Information and Communication

Kate Muir and the Women in Information and Communication (WIC) raised $300 for the Clubhouse at a recent event. Your support is greatly appreciated.

PWC Canberra & Luton Properties

This week PWC Canberra raised $535 through a raffle at their Symmetry "Let's Talk" event at the National Press Club. Luton Properties also jumped in on the action, and generously rounded this up to $1000! Thank you to all who contributed.

Clubhouse Mentors: we need you!

One of our current priorities is to build a community of professional mentors with a range of skills and expertise.

So we thought we'd explain a little more about how our mentoring program works, and what mentors actually do!

Clubhouse Mentors vary in age, background, interests, experiences and skills. Some have had experience mentoring young people before, but this is certainly not a prerequisite.

Mentors can be project managers, uni students, artists, educators, graphic designers, software developers, scientists, web developers, architects, or alumni Clubhouse members.

Mentors often find the Clubhouse in much the same ways that Members do – through word-of-mouth, university programs, or community networks.

Typically, Mentors will commit one afternoon a week to the Clubhouse program, for a minimum of six months. However, we recognise that not everyone can meet this commitment, and that's ok!

If you're thinking about becoming a Clubhouse Mentor, here are three tips to keep-top-of-mind:

1. Mentors help young people express themselves through technology

Clubhouse mentors support members as they connect their interests with the computer technology skills they need to express those interests.

2. Mentors focus on developing relationships

Successful mentors understand the importance of establishing relationships based on respect and trust.
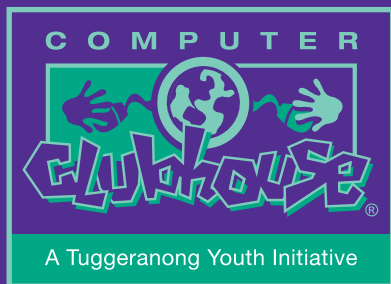
3. Mentors are mutual learners Clubhouse mentors sometimes lead, but they often follow.

They know it's empowering for young people to teach others too!

If you're keen to find out more about mentoring opportunities at our Clubhouse, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact Lach Howarth, Clubhouse Coordinator:
Lachlan.Howarth@ywca-canberra.org.au

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The importance of Clubhouse Partners

Today, over 100 Clubhouses in 20 countries reach tens of thousands of young people from underserved communities each year. Many were started with funding by Intel Corporation, which has invested $50 million since 2000. Others were started by local foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals who believe in the Clubhouse mission. All are supported on an ongoing basis by their own local funding sources.

The sustainability and success of the YWCA Computer Clubhouse is determined by the support of corporate and philanthropic partnerships. These partnerships may comprise software and hardware contributions, professional mentoring for clubhouse members, and financial contributions to cover operating costs.

To date our Clubhouse has received enormous support from the ACT Government, the Community Sector, and the local corporate community.

Unlocking the potential of our young people through technology

Across classrooms, homes, and communities, the role of technology in the empowerment of young people is an important driver for their development into productive adults (Gee, 2013). Research demonstrates the importance of engaging, interest-promoting, and well-resourced out-of-school environments for supporting the learning and development of young people. These "third-spaces" represent a critical element in the ecology of opportunities for youth (Gutierrez et al., 2003; 2009).

Technology adds an exciting new dimension to this picture, by allowing young people to connect their learning across settings, identify and mobilise information resources, participate in virtual communities, and seamlessly carry forward their activities from one time and place to another.

The Computer Clubhouse addresses this need, and support syoung people to develop their skills and ability to contribute to society, and enhance their chances for success.

The 2013 independent evaluation of The Intel Computer Clubhouse Network demonstrates its impact across the global membership, with 85% of Clubhouse members now planning to attend postsecondary education, and 92% of Clubhouse members "definitely" or "probably" believing that they will use skills acquired in the Clubhouse in their future careers.

"The YWCA Computer Clubhouse has only been made possible by the strong multi-sector partnerships forged between YWCA Canberra, leaders in the corporate and government sectors, and the local community."

— Frances Crimmins
Executive Director, YWCA Canberra

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C O M P U T E R CLUBHOUSE ®
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Help us establish a world-class Computer Clubhouse

We need your help to ensure our Clubhouse continues to thrive, and provide industry-standard technology and life-changing development opportunities for our Members.

Hardware and software

For the Clubhouse to become a leading technological facility, greater capability is required in terms of hardware and software. This includes acquiring Macintosh and PC mobile devices such as laptops, iPads, tablets and desktop PCs with the capacity to run 3D animation and robotics software.

- Funding required: $50,000

In addition to the immediate requirements of the Computer Clubhouse space, there are critical areas that require ongoing support in order for the program to continue to operate and flourish:

Computer Clubhouse Coordinator

The YWCA Canberra employs a full time Computer Clubhouse Coordinator to manage the program, and Clubhouse Members, mentors, and community networks. This role is critical to the viability and ongoing success of the program.

- Funding required: $75,000 per annum

Global Teen Summit 2015

The Teen Summit is a biennial week-long youth leadership event that brings Clubhouse Members together from each of the 100 Clubhouses internationally. Youth leaders explore and propose solutions to social issues through the creative use of innovative, high-end technologies. Each Teen Summit takes place on a university campus in Boston, Massachusetts, and includes a college and career fair, collaborative cross-cultural activities, and many other opportunities for educational, career and personal growth.

- Funding required: $2000 per person, bi-annually

Annual Conference 2015

Every year the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network brings together Computer Clubhouse staff, executive directors, sponsors and collaborators from organisations from across the world at the Annual Conference. This event provides participants with a platform to develop new ideas, skills and perspectives that they can take home and implement to better serve the needs of their respective Clubhouses.

- Funding required: $5,000 per person, per annum

Talk to us!

To find out how your organisation can get involved with the YWCA Computer Clubhouse, please contact:
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www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au