



YWCA Computer Clubhouse Newsletter

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



Lego, 3D modelling, and LittleBits in action at the YWCA Computer Clubhouse

Growing our Clubhouse membership base

The first quarter of 2015 has seen Lach Howarth, our Clubhouse Coordinator, running regular outreach sessions with Calwell High School and Wanniasa School Senior Campus.

The sessions are being run in community spaces within the school, such as the library and the wellbeing rooms, and involve up to 10 students at a time.

During the outreach sessions we use Lego, LittleBits and the MaKey MaKey to engage students in a hands-on way.

We then talk to participants about the Clubhouse, where it's located, what we do, who is able to join, and what they can expect to get out of it if they should choose to attend.

So far we've had great success in increasing our high school member numbers, which have risen by 700% since the end of 2014.

We've also run a very successful one-off outreach session at Erindale College, with their media and IT class. We took along the MaKey MaKey and hooked it up to one of their computers. The session format was very flexible, providing students with the opportunity to explore their own ideas with the MaKey MaKey.

Of the 14 students in the class, we had great engagement with all of the students, and expect them to sign up as Clubhouse Members in the near future.

We continue to collaborate with staff at Erindale College to arrange experience opportunities for students at the Clubhouse, and to support them during their games programming classes next term.

Canberra Youth Voices 2015

We're excited to announce that we will be running the first ever Canberra Youth Voices (CYV) program at Calwell High School in term 2.

CYV is a program designed to foster creativity and self expression through exploring technology during a 10-week course.

The students who take part in the program will decide on the topic of their projects, as well as the medium it will be designed and presented in.

We will run the program at Calwell High School and the Computer Clubhouse, which we expect will lead to further high school age members at the Clubhouse.



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Chatting to the Naenae Computer Clubhouse of New Zealand on Skype



Clubhouse Members creating with LittleBits

Making new friends in the Asia-Pacific region

Our Clubhouse members and team have been working on strengthening the connections between Computer Clubhouses in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.

Lach has initiated regular Skype calls between Computer Clubhouses in Australia and New Zealand so that we can share program ideas, and encourage our members to collaborate on projects.

Lach has also taken on a lead role in the planning of the 2015 APAC Regional Conference, a biannual conference for all Clubhouses in the region.

It's been a few years since the last APAC Regional Conference, and the global Intel Computer Clubhouse Network (ICCN) is very excited to see new energy breathed into this important event.

After our last regional Skype meeting, Brenda Abanavas, the APAC Regional Coordinator said:



Clubhouse Member with a colourful lego creation.

"I am over the top thrilled that all of you are so committed to building a strong cluster of creativity and support...Thanks again for a wonderful meeting".

The 2015 APAC Regional Conference will likely take place in Wellington, NZ, at the end of September.

Last month we also had a Skype call with the Naenae Clubhouse in Lower Hutt, NZ.

Members discussed everything from the local weather, time zones, what they do in their Computer Clubhouses, what food they like to eat, and much more!

Our members really enjoyed the unique experience of being able to talk to other young people from overseas. In fact, they were so excited about it that they asked if they could call back the next day!

Lach is in the process of setting up a schedule between the Clubhouses to have regular Skype calls so that our members can build and maintain strong connections and friendships with others in the APAC region.

This will provide a great introduction to the Biannual Computer Clubhouse Teen Summit, occurring in 2016.

This week-long conference allows teenage Clubhouse Members from around the world to enhance their technical and social skills.

During the week delegates work on collaborative projects that focus on a specific content area, such as animation, web design, robotics, 3D modeling, and video creation.

These projects focus on addressing a social issue such as education access, health disparities or gender equity.



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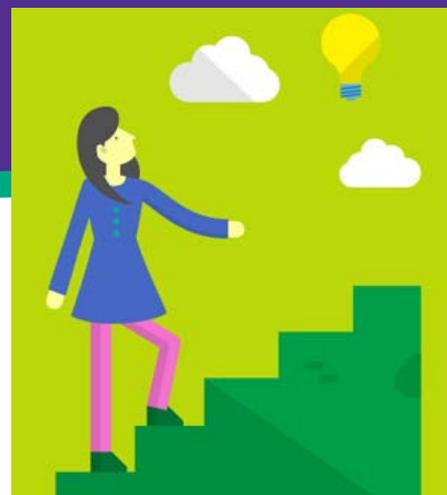
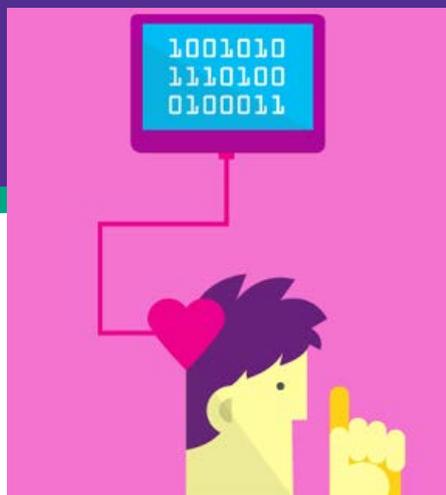


Image credits: www.wespeakcode.net

Collaborating with Microsoft

Last month we were invited to attend Microsoft's Canberra Citizenship event to promote the work we do in the Clubhouse.

Lach and Frances Crimmins, YWCA Canberra's Executive Director, presented to Microsoft Canberra's staff team, updating them about the various ways they can get more involved with the Clubhouse.

Microsoft has been a fantastic supporter and partner of the YWCA Computer Clubhouse and it was great to have the opportunity to share some stories and experiences with them.

Not only are we excited to have made some new connections with potential mentors at Microsoft, but we've registered to participate in the '#We Speak Code' program.

Last year Microsoft Asia Pacific launched the successful YouthSpark #WeSpeakCode campaign, which saw thousands of enthusiastic young people getting their first taste of learning basic coding skills, while many others took up more advanced

challenges through hackathons and coding for social good.

This year Microsoft is working with even more partners across the region who also believe code is a language everyone should learn and computational thinking is a skill which should be taught in all schools.

During the week of 11-15 May, Microsoft Australia will host #WeSpeakCode activities nationwide, to encourage young people to be inspired and to learn.

We are hopeful that a Microsoft-trained volunteer will come to the Computer Clubhouse to deliver the activity. We'll keep you posted!

Establishing new community connections

Over the last couple of months, we have been working on strengthening our partnerships with other community organisations and service providers.

We have connected with the Woden Community Services (WCS) Youth

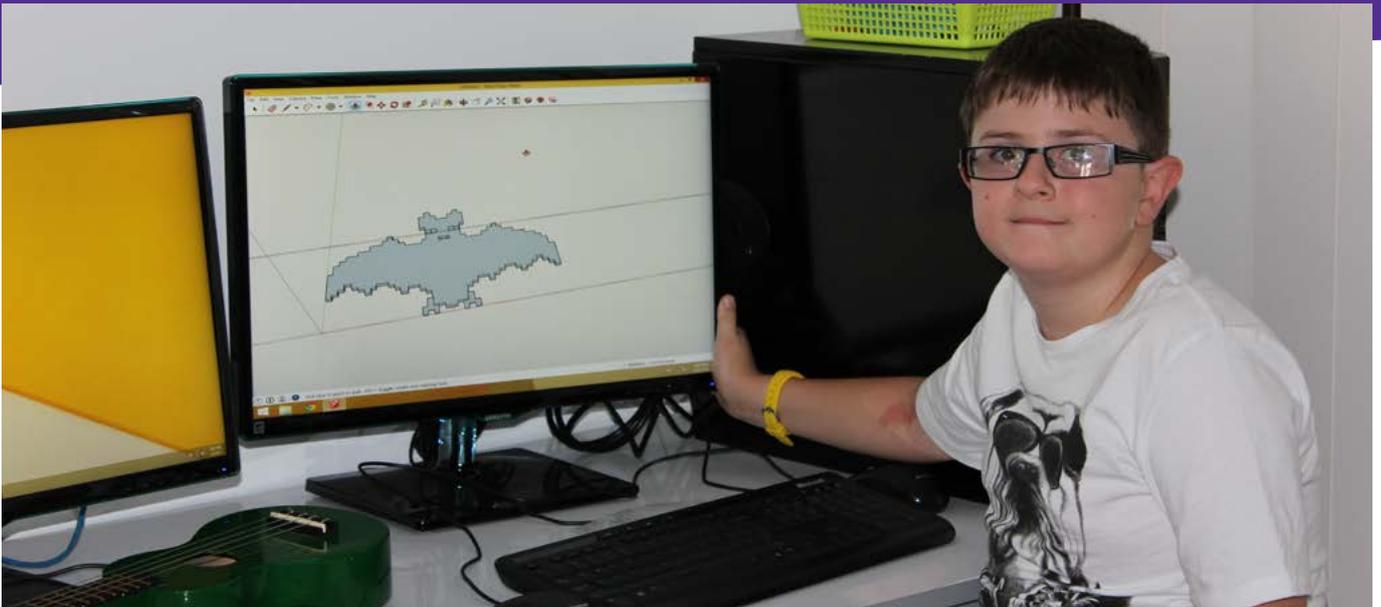
Engagement team, and are planning some joint activities for the school holidays.

We are also linking our communities together, so that they have access to a range of community supports, if needed.

Most recently, the WCS Youth Engagement team have referred some of their clients who may be interested in technology and design to the Computer Clubhouse, and we are linking our members in with the Woden Youth Centre.

In February we hosted a stall at the CIT Woden Open Day to promote the Clubhouse. This provided us with the opportunity to connect with CIT, particularly with the student advisers who work with international students.

There were a large number of CIT students who expressed interest on behalf of younger siblings in attending as members, as well as expressing interest in becoming Computer Clubhouse Mentors!



Clubhouse Member, creating using SketchUp 3D modelling software

Lights, camera action!

Thanks to a generous grant from Lockheed Martin Australia, we're pleased to report that construction of our our brand new audio visual production studio is well underway.

Last month we added an additional window to the room, as well as soundproofing on the door.

Videocraft Canberra visited the Clubhouse to demonstrate a range of digital video cameras, lights, audio equipment and accessories, and we've placed our order.

We've also invested in some new Macintosh editing suites, and look forward to their arrival in the coming weeks.

Stay tuned for a date for the launch event. We'd love to see you all there to celebrate with us.

If you're interested in mentoring in film production, audio engineering, or post production, then please get in touch.

To find out more, or to nominate a friend, contact Lach Howarth at: Lachlan.Howarth@ywca-canberra.org.au



Lach and a Clubhouse Member getting creative with LittleBits

Getting involved with National Science Week 2015

We're pleased to announce that this year our Clubhouse Members will be participating in National Science Week activities.

National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. Running in August, it features approximately 1000 events around Australia, delivered by universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums and science centres.

These events attract a wide audience, from children to adults, and science amateurs to professionals.

This year, our Clubhouse Members will host a stall at Science in ACTION, a two-day festival at the Kingston Bus Depot Markets, engaging audiences of all ages in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Our involvement in this event is generously sponsored by the ACT National Science Week Steering Committee.

The event was a huge success last year, and will combine the energy and excitement of National Science Week in one location.

We've also submitted a grant application to run our own event during the week.

Our hope is to host two workshops facilitated by the ACT LittleBits Chapter Leader and Computer Clubhouse Mentor, Dale Rogers.

The purpose of the workshops is to create interactive wearable fashion using LittleBits technology.

We look forward to keeping you posted on the outcome of our grant application!

To find out more about National Science Week, and how you can get involved visit:

www.scienceweek.net.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 supports young 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 per cent of Clubhouse Members now planning to attend postsecondary education, and 92 per cent 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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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

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 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:

Joanna Le, YWCA Canberra Director of Corporate Relations and Communications

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