

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.



Clubhouse Members working with LittleBits.

Kicking off 2015 with a heap of creativity

January is a quiet month for some, but we're all systems go at the YWCA Computer Clubhouse!

After receiving ten copies of Adobe Photoshop Elements late last year, digital imaging has been the flavour of the month here at the Clubhouse.

A favourite starter project for our members has been to add pictures of animals to local scenery. To do this, members have taken photographs using our own digital cameras, and have then used layering, masking, and colouring techniques within the software.

Other members have been developing their skills in Scratch programming, SketchUp, Sculptris, Arduino programming, and building interactive objects with our LittleBits kit.

One project currently under development is an Arduino controlled bench top coffee maker!

This works by combining sensors,

an Arduino board, and a program to monitor and control the temperature of the water much more effectively than the machine itself, providing a nicer coffee.

Lach Howarth, the Computer Clubhouse Coordinator, has also been out and about running lunchtime drop in sessions at some of the local high schools.

There are drop in sessions coming up for Lanyon High School, Calwell High School and Caroline Chisholm Senior Campus. So if you see Lach at one of those schools, you should go say hi and find out what the Computer Clubhouse is all about!

Adobe makes a splash at the Clubhouse

We're absolutely thrilled to have recently received a year long subscription to the Adobe Creative Cloud through the Adobe Youth Voices program.

Adobe Youth Voices provides young people with the skills, technology and inspiration needed to make creative

media works on issues that are important to them.

Creativity is a core component in Adobe's business, and they believe that they have a corporate responsibility to inspire youth and help communities thrive.

The program is in its ninth year now, having engaged over 190,000 youth from 60 countries.

The Adobe Youth Voices program has shown positive results for youth including increased skill levels in digital media, collaboration, persistence, self expression, ideation and flexibility, or what they refer to as creative confidence.

Every year all participants in the Adobe Youth Voices program submit their work to an online community where anyone can view it and vote for their favourite work. Winning projects of the Adobe Youth Voices Awards receive prizes ranging from software and hardware to exhibitions at international film festivals. We're very excited to be part of Adobe Youth Voices here at the Clubhouse!

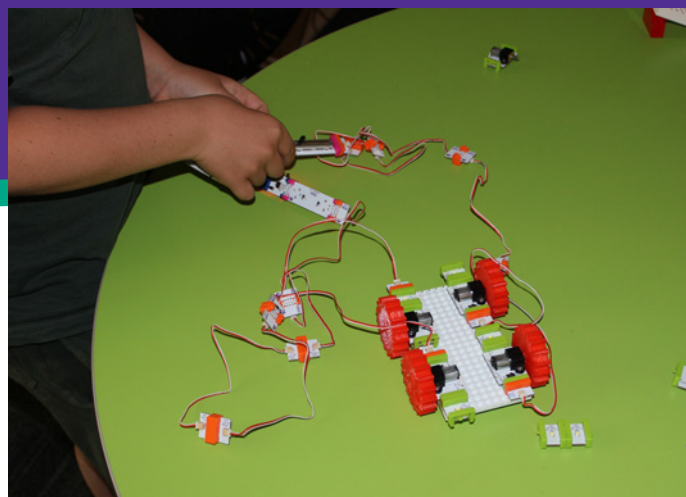


YWCA Computer Clubhouse Newsletter

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



Clubhouse members are loving using Photoshop Elements to photoshop wild creatures into everyday landscapes, like the Clubhouse carpark!



The 'crawler' that Clubhouse member Ryan made using LittleBits.

Meet a Computer Clubhouse Member

Ryan is one of our regular Clubhouse members. He's 10 years old, and attends Gowrie Primary School. We caught up with Ryan to chat about what he likes about the Computer Clubhouse.

Why do you come to the Clubhouse?

I come to the Clubhouse because I have access to the 3D printer and I'm bored at home. I also come to socialise in person and on the Clubhouse Village.

What's your favourite thing to use?

My favourite thing to use is the 3D printer because I can make awesome things. I've made Minecraft gear, a truck, a boat, a Pacman ghost and other stuff.

I also really like the LittleBits kit, because I've got access to computers at home, but not robotics.

My favourite thing I've made with the LittleBits is the 'Crawler', a small remote control, all terrain vehicle.

What's the best thing you've created so far?

One of my favourite things was the challenge to make 50 household objects, set by Lach, out of Lego.



Ryan in action - setting up our EmotiveEPOC technology.

My favourite object was the fridge with opening doors and an ice and water dispenser.

Some of the other objects I had to make included a tree house, piano and TV with surround sound. I really like Lego because you can build whatever you want.

What's something new you'd like to see the Clubhouse get?

I would love a bigger 3D printer because we only have a mini one.

I want to be able to print bigger versions of all the stuff I make. I made a 3D printed paddle boat that runs on a wind up rubberband, and I'd really like to make a bigger one.

Building our AV production suite

Last year, we were delighted to receive \$20,000 in funding for the development of an audio visual production suite from Lockheed Martin Australia (LMA).

We're now working with Coordinate and LMA to design, build and kit out the suite with industry-standard equipment and software.

This new addition to the Clubhouse will allow our members to produce, record, and edit their own video productions, such as short films and music videos.

They will also be able to explore motion graphics and sound design with the new gear.

If you know anyone with expertise in film production, audio engineering, or post production, then please send them our way.

We're on the hunt for Mentors who can work with our Members when the studio is complete. Our goal is to launch the studio in mid 2015.

Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting project!



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.



Steve Gleeson, our newest Clubhouse Mentor.



Ciara Duggan, Senior Youth Engagement Worker at YWCA Canberra.



Clubhouse Members experimenting with LittleBits.

Meet Steve Gleeson, our newest mentor

We're excited to welcome on board our latest Clubhouse mentor, Steve Gleeson.

Steve has had 40 years experience in the IT industry, predominantly in the operations disciplines, supervision and management.

After serving for six years in the RAAF, Steve worked for the ANU in Canberra, the State Government Insurance Commission (SA) and the Electricity Trust of South Australia.

Prior to transitioning to EDS in April 1996 as part of the South Australian Government IT Outsourcing contract, he was the Manager Information Processing Services in ETSA Corporation, an electricity generation and distribution utility in South Australia. During this time he also implemented the Quality Management System to achieve AS9001 certification.

After joining EDS, Steve held positions of Service Delivery Manager,

Distributed Operations Manager, Server and Desktop Engineering Manager (SA/Vic), EDS Consistent Australia and New Zealand, and Business Services Manager in Applied Engineering Capability.

Steve also provided support services to the Capability Management and Integration Engineering team in Australia and New Zealand.

Steve retired in 2007 and we're very pleased that he made the decision to move from Adelaide to Canberra!

A warm welcome to Ciara Duggan

We're excited to welcome Ciara Duggan to the YWCA Computer Clubhouse team.

We sat down with Ciara recently to find out what makes her tick!

Tell us a bit about yourself

I am the new Senior Youth Engagement Worker with YWCA Canberra. I have previously worked as a youth worker in Belconnen and have worked across the disability sector through out my

career within community services. In my spare time I enjoy being outdoors and particularly enjoy going camping and fishing.

What are you most excited about when it comes to the Computer Clubhouse?

The Computer Clubhouse is an extremely exciting program.

I look forward to seeing the creative projects that the young people work on and can't believe the confidence they show when utilising the technology.

It's a creative space that can accommodate anything that the member's imagination can construct.

Do you have a favourite technology that we have in the space currently?

My favourite piece of technology is the 3D printer.

Although I know a little about 3D printing, it is fantastic to see the creative projects that the young people utilise this piece of equipment for.

There has also been a number of times that young people have brought in their own gadgets from home to show the group.



A Clubhouse Member with Jan Skeyhill, Manager, Community Development Unit, YWCA Canberra.

One of the young men brought in a drone and it was really exciting seeing the drone in action and the video that it captured.

Why do you think programs like this are important for young people?

I think it's important to give young people the opportunity to learn and become confident in a space that allows them to be creative through a number of different mediums.

I also think it is fantastic that the young people network with other Clubhouses across the world and see what the other members are creating.

The Computer Clubhouse fosters a real sense of community. Recently it was fantastic to see one of the young men become very excited when another Clubhouse member started following the progress of a project through the Clubhouse Village online.

Flagship Clubhouse features Canberra in calendar

The YWCA Computer Clubhouse has been featured in the flagship Computer Clubhouse's annual calendar.

In her introduction to the calendar, Gail Breslow, Director of the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network said:

"At the grand opening of a Clubhouse in Canberra, Australia, the mother of a 12-year-old boy – a regular since the first day the Clubhouse opened – spoke of how the Clubhouse had been 'a godsend' for her son. It wasn't just the technology skills he was building. The Clubhouse had reawakened his joy for learning, given him a sense of place, and provided him a safe space to join with adult mentors and peers to explore his own creativity."

You can get your own calendar by donating \$35 or more to the Computer Clubhouse Network here:

www.computerclubhouse.org/donate

Annual Clubhouse Conference

The Intel Computer Clubhouse Network will be hosting its annual conference in Portland, OR, USA this year, and our Clubhouse Coordinators, Lach and Ciara will be attending.

The annual conference is not only a great chance to improve skills, both technical and related to the running of a Clubhouse, but is a fantastic networking opportunity.

The conference runs from 19 April and begins with a meet and greet reception on Sunday evening.

The first three days of workshop sessions cover a variety of topics related to running a successful Computer Clubhouse.

The conference ends on Wednesday 22 April, but is followed by two days of technical training and workshops. Lach will be running a technical workshop on the use of LittleBits, an easy to use, solderless robotics kit.

Through the conference, we hope to form strong links with other Clubhouses around the world that will lead to projects involving international collaboration.

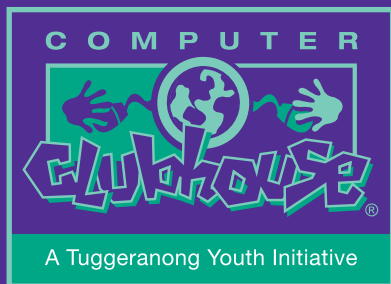
At the conference Lach hopes to find a Clubhouse to start a video pal system, so our members can build friendships with others around the world!

It would work the same way that a pen pal system works, but rather than writing a letter, Clubhouses would create a video to send to their partnered Clubhouse.

The annual conference is a very exciting time and we're sure many great opportunities will come out of it.

You can find out more about what's happening in the global Computer Clubhouse network here:

www.computerclubhouse.org



YWCA Canberra Computer Clubhouse

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



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



YWCA Canberra Computer Clubhouse

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

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 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:

Joanna Allebone, YWCA Canberra Director of Corporate Relations and Communications

M 0415 962 842 | **E** joanna.allebone@ywca-canberra.org.au

www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au