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.

COMPUTER CLUBHOUSE
A Tuggeranong Youth Initiative

Clubhouse members exploring our new audio-visual production studio.

Launching our Audio-Visual Production Studio

It's hard to believe the YWCA Computer Clubhouse has been open for less than a year – arriving for the launch of our audio-visual production studio on Thursday 30 July, there were so many members in the space, busy working on their projects, that the room was crowded and full of energy!

The audio-visual production studio (AV studio) is the latest addition to our Clubhouse. It's a dedicated space with the latest in video and sound recording equipment, including a green screen, professional lighting, brand new cameras, Mac computers loaded up with all the editing software needed, and more. The studio has been made possible through the generous support of our partner, Lockheed Martin Australia.

Our members are already busy using the space to create short films, edit their work, and dive into music production.

We celebrated the launch of the AV studio with a special event at the Clubhouse, bringing together our corporate and philanthropic partners, the Steering Committee, and members.

Clubhouse member Ella opened the event with an acknowledgment of country, and we heard from Frances Crimmins, Executive Director of YWCA Canberra and Julie Dunlap, Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions, Vice President, Australian Programs.
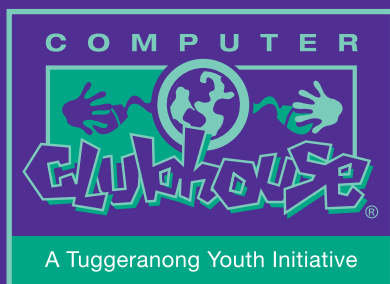
Both Frances and Julie touched on the importance of the Clubhouse in providing avenues into careers in STEM for young people, especially as STEM continues to account for the vast majority of career opportunities, and will continue to grow in the future.

Julie also shared her personal journey to leadership as a woman in STEM, and highlighted the importance of people from diverse backgrounds and with unique experiences entering the industry.

Our members demonstrated some of the awesome projects they've been working on, including coding and web development, photography, fashion design and robotics.

It was exciting to be able to demonstrate the growth of the Computer Clubhouse over the past nine months to our partners, and to give members the chance to share their projects with attendees.

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Clubhouse members Cameron and Coordinator Lach at Science in ACTion.

Clubhouse members at our AV Studio launch, enjoying the ukeleles.

The Clubhouse at Science in ACTion

Our Clubhouse members had the chance to participate in National Science Week this year through the Science In ACTion event.

The event brought together schools, representatives from organisations working in science, mathematics, engineering and technology, and other related organisations.

Our Clubhouse coordinators, Lach and Ciara, brought ten Clubhouse members to Science in ACTion, where they hosted a special stall showcasing member projects. Members got the chance to explore the event, connect with other organisations and students, and to spread the word about what they have been achieving at the Clubhouse.

Cameron, our resident Clubhouse photographer, took some great photos on the day, which we shared in our blog.

A big thank you to the ACT National Science Week Committee, who sponsored the Computer Clubhouse to attend Science In ACTion.

Clubhouse member, Ella, reading an acknowledgement of country at the AV Studio launch.

Some of the creative 3D printed objects made by our members, on display.
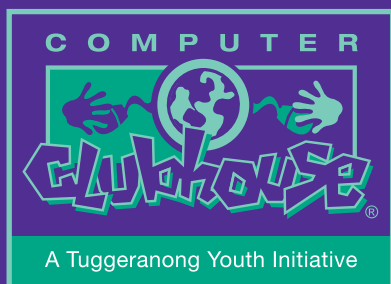
Collaborating with PhotoAccess

The Big Picture workshop is a project run by PhotoAccess in partnership with Lake Tuggeranong College, Tuggeranong Arts Center, Manuka Arts Centre and the YWCA Computer Clubhouse.

The program consists of an eight-week black and white film photography workshop for students of Lake Tuggeranong College in mid 2014. The students took photographs with analogue cameras, developed the film and printed the images in the PhotoAccess darkroom.

The resulting works were exhibited in the Tuggeranong Arts Centre Foyer Gallery in an exhibition titled The Big Picture, which will open in November.

Our Computer Clubhouse coordinators helped facilitate the program, and mentored the participating young people throughout the journey.

Participants can keep progressing their photography journey at the Clubhouse, using our technology and software.

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A Clubhouse member busy filming.

Clubhouse members with their latest craft project.

Creativity at the Clubhouse.

Mobilising your team to support the Clubhouse

Our Computer Clubhouse relies entirely on corporate and philanthropic support to operate – and we're always thrilled when our partners run fundraisers to support the Clubhouse.

Dimension Data were one of the very first organisations to join us as a partner for the Computer Clubhouse, and regularly support the Clubhouse through addressing our technology needs, providing strategic direction through our Steering Committee, and fundraising through their amazing staff team.

Recently, Dimension Data raised another $375 for the Clubhouse, through their Crowd to Cloud conference, as well as by raffling an officially branded Tour de France cycling top at a staff event!

YWCA Canberra also has an ongoing partnership with EY. EY staff are regular donors through a Workplace Giving program, and all funds raised through their donations go directly to the Clubhouse.

Recently, the EY Foundation organised a fundraising trivia night for their staff, to raise funds for the Computer Clubhouse.

They raised a massive $2,034, and had a great time doing it!

Mobilising your staff to fundraise for, or donate to community causes is a great way of boosting morale and engaging with your local community.

You can support the Computer Clubhouse through Workplace Giving, which allows your staff to make automatic donations from their pre-tax income.

If you'd like to find out more about Workplace Giving, contact Zoya Patel, Corporate Relations and Advocacy Manager at zoya.patel@ywca-canberra.org.au.

Sowing the seeds for a new venture

One of the great things about the Computer Clubhouse program is how it supports members to let their imaginations run wild, and to explore their own potential.

Our members often turn their newly learned skills into ongoing projects and business ventures – we've had members launch fashion labels, web-design businesses, and most recently, one of our members has kickstarted a very special business selling locally harvested plant seeds.

Ryan Crossling is a Year 6 student at Gowrie Primary School, and he recently saw the opportunity to create a new business venture, combining his productive vegetable patch at home with his newly learnt skills through the Computer Clubhouse.

With the help of fellow Clubhouse member, Angus, Ryan designed an online store selling plant seed packets, to help Canberrans grow their own vegetables and fruits.

South Side Seeds boasts having the 'best price, best quality' seeds, and offers a range of different packs to suit any tastebud!

Ryan used his time at the Clubhouse to design a logo and business cards using Photoshop, and a website once he and Angus learnt how to code.

He's now going to market South Side Seeds to his local community, and use the profits to continue growing the business.

We had a quick chat with Ryan about his new business venture:

Clubhouse members, partners and team at the launch of our AV Studio.

Why did you want to start South Side Seeds?

I wanted a challenge and something to do make some money and have fun in the process.

Was it hard designing your own logo?

Yes, but I did not do it on my own, with help from Lach and my good friend Angus.

How have you used the Clubhouse to start the business?

I started the business at home but having access to everything at the Clubhouse has helped a lot.

What would you like people to know about South Side Seeds?

Our seeds are organic and home grown and cheaper the most major companies.

We'll share the South Side Seeds website with you all, as soon as it's launched! We love seeing our Clubhouse members gain new skills and use them to kickstart their own projects.

The role of the Clubhouse as a hub that fosters innovation, experimentation and creativity is wonderful to see in action.

Galilee visits the Clubhouse

The Computer Clubhouse has had several visits from students at Galilee School.

Galilee is a registered, independent school 'designed specifically for disengaged and vulnerable young people aged 12 to 17 years in the ACT who, for a myriad of reasons, are unable to access the mainstream schooling system'.

During outreach to the school, our Clubhouse coordinators noted that young people attending the school faced barriers to accessing technology. Many of the young people from Galilee are talented musicians, singers and rappers, and would highly benefit from using the Clubhouse AV Studio.

The Computer Clubhouse has now hosted students from Galilee School three times over the past several months, facilitating a number of specific activities, including tie-dying t-shirts and recording original songs in the AV Studio.

Several students have since signed up as Clubhouse members, and continue to use the space to develop their music and recording abilities.

The Galilee School visits are a great example of how the Computer Clubhouse connects with young people with specific needs, and provides an accessible and nurturing environment for them to explore their interests and gain new skills through technology.

We look forward to sharing some of the music our members from Galilee have been making with you in the coming months!
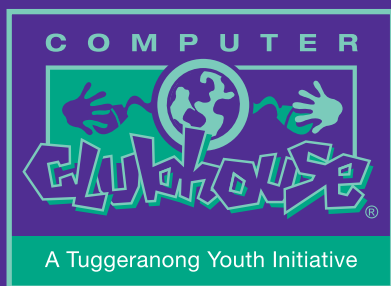
Microsoft donates two Xbox Ones!

Our Partner, Microsoft, have generously donated two Xbox Ones to the Clubhouse.

Our members were thrilled to recieve two Xbox Ones, four controllers and two Minecraft games from the wonderful team at Microsoft.

Microsoft donated one Xbox, and the additional Xbox was generously donated by their staff team.

Members have been enjoying using the new equipment to get stuck into building and designing houses and machines through Minecraft.

Thank you, Microsoft, for continuing to support the Clubhouse, and helping us keep the space filled with engaging and exciting technology!

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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 and mobilise information resources, participate in virtual communities, and seamlessly carry forward their activities from one time and place to another.
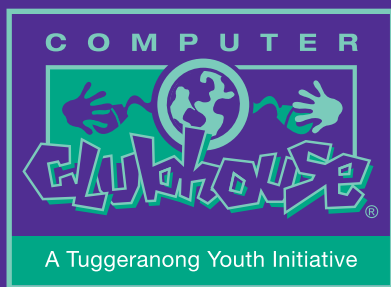
The Computer Clubhouse addresses this need, and supports young people to develop their skills and ability to contribute to society, and enhance their chances for success.

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.

young people to connect their learning across settings, identify

"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.

We have now established the Clubhouse with leading technology, in both hardware and software, and have a strong membership base. To keep the Clubhouse running, our critical area of need for funding is to maintain our operational capacity with the emloyment of a qualified, full-time Clubhouse coordinator.

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: $2,000 per person, bi annually

Annual Conference 2016

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:
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