

YWCA Clubhouse

ONE-YEAR IMPACT REPORT 2014-2015







www.ywca-computerclubhouse.org.au

Acknowledgement of Country

YWCA Canberra proudly recognises the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to own and control their cultures, and pays respect around these rights. YWCA Canberra acknowledges the need to respect and encourage the diversity of Indigenous cultures and aims to respect Indigenous worldviews, lifestyles and customary laws.



About YWCA Canberra

YWCA Canberra is a feminist, not-for-profit organisation that has provided community services and represented women's issues in Canberra since 1929.

Through our national Member Association, YWCA Australia, we are part of the World YWCA network, which connects 125 countries across the globe.

Our rich history of supporting women and girls in Canberra through the Great Depression, the Second World War, and the rapid social and cultural changes Canberra has experienced in recent years, continues to inform and influence our work.

Today we provide quality, innovative services for women, girls and families in the ACT and surrounding regions. We work in the areas of children's services, community development, housing, youth services, personal and professional training, women's leadership and advocacy.

As a membership-based, non-religious organisation, we encourage the participation of people of all cultures, beliefs and ages in our movement. Strengthened by diversity, we welcome members who are committed to recognising and celebrating the value of every human being.

FOREWORD

Young people growing up in the 21st century need skills in science, technology, engineering and maths to navigate their lives as students, to help them find great jobs and lift their community and country to new heights.

The YWCA Clubhouse provides young people with the opportunity to explore many aspects of technology and engineering and apply them to interesting problems and activities. This includes developing their artistic and creative side as well, if they want to.

The Clubhouse is a safe, stimulating environment with great role models. It allows young people to experiment with leadership, and helping others as well. For young people who don't have access to a lot of technology at home, it provides key tools, giving them a very fast start in growing their skills and capacity

We are proud to have played a small part in helping the Clubhouse, in its first year, in making real progress on bringing young people together to experience a new way to collaborate and learn. Young people from diverse backgrounds, both girls and boys, are working together every day. This is a wonderful outcome for the Tuggeranong Valley, the community and the ACT!

In the future, the YWCA Clubhouse will have a broad community of mentors, alumni and supporters – giving the young people of Tuggeranong deeper and more stimulating access to technology and learning.

We hope, with community, private and public support, to expand the Clubhouse to other areas of the ACT.

We want to thank all of the supporters - corporate, private and individual – for their support for the Clubhouse. It takes a village to create a space like the Clubhouse for young people!



Hala Batainah

YWCA Clubhouse

Ambassador



Tony Henshaw
YWCA Clubhouse
Ambassador



THE CLUBHOUSE JOURNEY

The YWCA Clubhouse was officially opened on 10 October 2014, almost a year after the initial idea first came to life.

The Clubhouse model was founded in Boston, America in 1993, and now spans across the world with a collective impact of over 100 Clubhouses located in 19 countries.

The YWCA Clubhouse was founded in collaboration with Richardson Primary School, out of a desire to ensure that young people in Tuggeranong were not left behind in the digital revolution, and to provide a creative, out-of-school learning space that provided the support, technology and access needed for our members to unleash their creativity, learn new skills, and engage with technology in a meaningful way.

The YWCA Clubhouse is the first of its kind in the ACT and is located next to Richardson Primary School in the suburb of Richardson. This community has the highest number of people in the ACT (24 percent) who fall into the most disadvantaged 20 percent of all 15-64 year old Australians.

The Clubhouse addresses these significant equity issues in the Tuggeranong region by re-engaging young people in education, and fostering social inclusion. The Clubhouse particularly targets disadvantaged young people aged 10 to 18, girls, and young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

For many of these young people, the Clubhouse is their first out-of-school learning experience where they have access to high-tech tools, leadership development, and self-directed learning. Importantly, the Clubhouse also connects young people to internship and vocational opportunities with local ICT organisations, and pathways to employment through the program's volunteer mentors and industry partners.

By working alongside young people on projects incorporating elements of science, technology, maths, and art, industry mentors foster the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Clubhouse members.

Since its establishment, our Clubhouse membership has grown to over 130 members, of which 24 percent are girls, and 6 percent are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

Our members have participated in national STEM events, such as National Science Week, been on field trips to science-related landmarks, engaged with work experience opportunities through our partners, and launched their own businesses in some cases.

Importantly, the Clubhouse has become a safe space for young people to come and experiment, push boundaries with their creativity and learn new skills in a way that is member-driven and supported through our mentors and staff.

The YWCA Clubhouse is only made possible through the support of our partners. A raft of local ICT businesses have supported the Clubhouse by donating leading technological equipment and resources including a 3D printer, Scratch, CodeBlocks, LittleBits, and a newly launched AV Studio providing industrystandard video and audio production and editing equipment.

We're proud of our partnerships, and this report includes a full list of our partners and the contributions they have made to the Clubhouse.

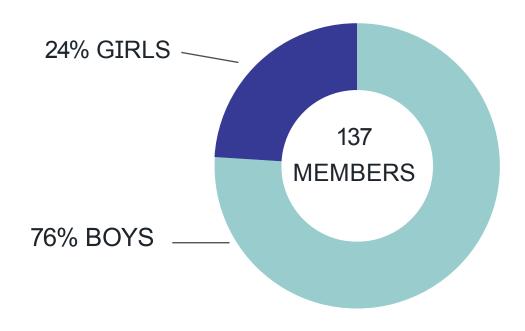
The YWCA Clubhouse is only just beginning, we look to the next 12 months to see further growth, change, and the continued opportunity to make a difference in closing the digital divide. Our goal is to open a second Clubhouse in West Belconnen in Canberra, to address another geographic area of need, and to continue to extend the impact of the Clubhouse model across the ACT.

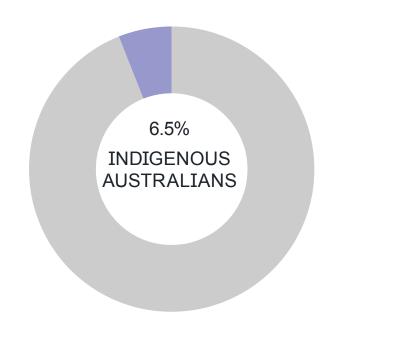
We look forward to you joining us on this new stage of our Clubhouse journey.

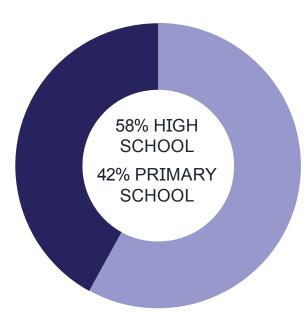


Frances Crimmins
Executive Director
YWCA Canberra

OUR CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS









The YWCA Clubhouse currently has 137 members, between the ages of 10 and 18. Our members have a wide range of interests, and have the opportunity to explore these through the technology available in the Clubhouse.

Some of the most popular technology to date has been:

- Using Photoshop for vector art and photo manipulation, as well as designing their own card games.
- Exploring looping and music recording with GarageBand
- Using our cutting edge photography and video equipment to shoot short films and take great photos
- Making quizzes using Kahoots on educational topics, like flags of the world!

Many of our members have found a real passion through their time at the Clubhouse – one member, Cameron, has demonstrated extraordinary skills in photography, while another, Lance, has taken his newly learnt web-coding skills to start his own business.

As our Clubhouse continues to grow, we look forward to seeing how our members progress in their interests and skills, and will continue to share these outcomes with the community.

Meet a member Ryan Crossling



Ryan is one of our regular Clubhouse members. He's 11 years old, and attends Gowrie Primary School. We caught up with Ryan to chat about what he likes about the 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 at the Clubhouse?

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 controlled, 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. 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.



OUR OUTCOMES

The YWCA Clubhouse has the following objectives. Young people will:

- · Have an increased confidence in their abilities
- Be more engaged through actively participating in the Clubhouse activities
- · Change their perception from 'not able' to 'can do'
- · Have more confidence in finishing their schooling
- · Raised interest in continuing their education after high school
- Develop leadership skills
- Demonstrate an increased competency in problem solving, collaboration and use of technology
- Demonstrate an increased involvement towards community based activities.



OBJECTIVE ONE: YOUNG PEOPLE WILL HAVE AN INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITIES



The YWCA Clubhouse creates an inclusive, enabling environment that encourages young people to test out new skills, explore with technology and gain confidence in their abilities in a safe space.

By also connecting our members with industry partners and work experience opportunities, the Clubhouse demonstrates the value of their skills and their real-world application. This has a significant impact on members' confidence in their abilities, and reinforces their value and potential.

Cameron's story

One of our earliest Clubhouse members, Cameron, first started engaging with the Clubhouse in July 2014, after our soft opening. He immediately found an aptitude and interest in photography, and was supported to learn how to use the DSLR camera and editing equipment in the Clubhouse.

Cameron's photos demonstrated an amazing natural eye for photography, and our Clubhouse staff had some of his best shots printed onto canvasses and showcased during the Grand



Opening of the Clubhouse. This public recognition of his work boosted Cameron's confidence, and led him to continue exploring his photography skills, and expand into filming as well.

We were able to coordinate several work experience opportunities for Cameron with our partner, Coordinate, who arranged for Cameron to join their team in photographing the Canberra Brave Ice Hockey games. On one occasion, Cameron also got to film the games, with his footage screened live in local venues around Canberra!

These experiences have had an amazing impact on Cameron, who continues to grow as a photographer and increase his skills and abilities.

Images: Left - Cameron using the Clubhouse video equipment. Right - A photo by Cameron at a CBR Brave Ice Hockey game.

OBJECTIVE TWO: YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE MORE ENGAGED THROUGH ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN CLUBHOUSE ACTIVITIES

A key strength of the Clubhouse model is the creation of spaces that facilitate learning and engagement in a member-driven way, ensuring that young people who may struggle with traditional models of learning will be able to participate and engage with the Clubhouse in a positive way.

Engaging with Galilee School

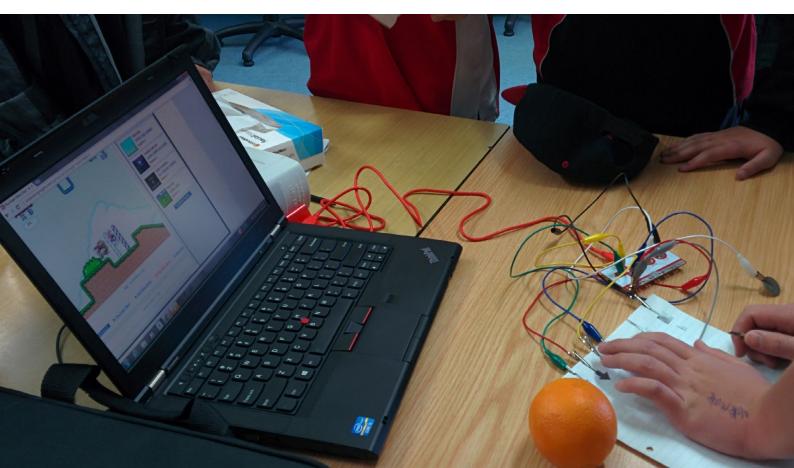
Galilee School is 'a registered, independent secondary school designed specifically for disengaged and vulnerable young people aged 12 to 17 years in the ACT who, for a myriad of reasons, are unable to access the mainstream schooling system'.

The YWCA Clubhouse initially engaged with Galilee School through first communicating with teachers, and identifying that students at Galilee faced multiple barriers to accessing technology. In particular, teachers noted that their cohort included talented musicians, singers and rappers who would benefit from access to the Clubhouse's high-tech audio production studio.

Galilee School has now conducted multiple special trips to the Clubhouse, and young people have been engaged in recording their music, hand crafts such as tie-dying t-shirts, and experimenting with the different technologies in the space.

Several students have since signed up as members of the Clubhouse, and have returned independently to access the space, demonstrating heightened engagement and an interest in continued involvement with the Clubhouse.

The ability of the Clubhouse to be flexible to the needs of our local community is critical to its success.







OBJECTIVE THREE: YOUNG PEOPLE WILL CHANGE THEIR PERCEPTION FROM 'NOT ABLE' TO 'CAN DO'

The Clubhouse model aims to empower young people to have confidence in their skills, and to see themselves as leaders in innovation and experimentation with technology.

Access to industry mentors and a dedicated Clubhouse Coordinator help to ensure that young people are supported to learn new skills in technology, in a way that encourages self-driven learning.

Fashion leading the way

The YWCA Clubhouse encourages creativity through a number of different avenues, without restricting members to using technology for specific outcomes.

A great example of the Clubhouse inspiring members to gain confidence in their skills and explore new areas of interests is the creation of a fashion label by a group of members. From designing the graphics and trouble-shooting the design, to modelling the branding digitally onto hoodies and t-shirts, our members have led this project themselves, and demonstrated a real 'cando' approach.

As our Clubhouse continues to grow, we look forward to seeing more of these projects unfold, and seeing the growing confidence of our members.

Few other programs have had this kind of impact on learning all over this planet, getting countless young people more engaged...

Henry Jenkins, University of Southern California.

OBJECTIVE FOUR: YOUNG PEOPLE WILL HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN FINISHING THEIR SCHOOLING

The YWCA Clubhouse strives to create an environment were learning is engaging and self-motivated, and helps to foster an ongoing sense of investment in our members for their own future education.

The outcomes of the Clubhouse model in instilling members with the confidence to finish their schooling has been seen clearly on a global level.

The 2013 Clubhouse Alumni report surveyed members who had graduated from the program from across the world. The report found that 97% alumni found the Clubhouse to be the most important source of support for setting high goals and expectations for themselves, and that 60% said that it was their most important source of support for staying in school.

As we continue on our Clubhouse journey, we want to contribute to this legacy of the Clubhouse Network globally, to support our members to remain engaged with education, to see learning as a positive and safe experience, and to be motivated to finish school.

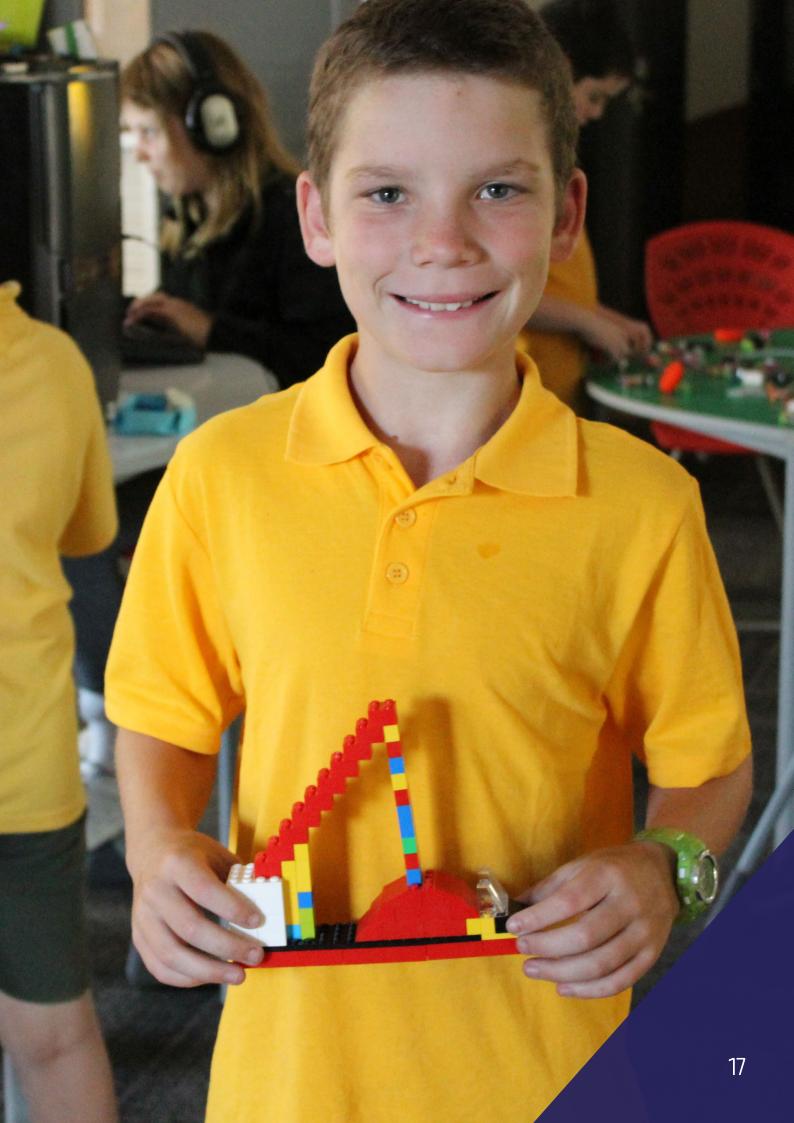
OBJECTIVE FIVE: YOUNG PEOPLE WILL DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS

By empowering young people to lead their own projects, gain confidence in their skills and support each other to learn new things, the Clubhouse fosters leadership skills and development.

Our members are supported to further develop their leadership skills through participation in work experience, and connections with our industry partners.

A key aspect of the Clubhouse model that further embeds the leadership skills learnt through the program is the bi-annual Global Teen Summit, which is held in Boston, home of the original Clubhouse. Each Clubhouse around the world sends a member to attend the Summit, with support staff accompanying them, and it's a chance for members to see the global network in action, share their learnings and skills and collaborate with other members from around the world.

The Teen Summit builds on the broader leadership development that is part of the everyday activities at the Clubhouse.



OBJECTIVE SIX: YOUNG PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE AN INCREASED COMPETENCY IN PROBLEM SOLVING, COLLABORATION AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY

A strength of the Clubhouse model is the freedom given to members to stretch their imaginations, trial new ideas, and be allowed to fail safely with support and encouragement from mentors and staff.

Through this enabling environment, we have already seen some exciting outcomes, with members launching new business ideas, starting and finishing big projects, and testing their skills with new technology.

Ryan's story

One of our most energetic members is Ryan, a Year 6 student who has used the Clubhouse to test and launch a new business. South Side Seeds is small business selling high quality, locally grown, organic vegetable seeds.

Ryan used the Clubhouse to help launch the business. He learnt Photoshop skills and worked with fellow Clubhouse members to design his own logo and business cards, and collaborated with another member to design and launch a website for the business.

Ryan's experience at the Clubhouse demonstrates how the program encourages self-directed learning, collaboration and the creative use of technology. We're looking forward to seeing South Side Seeds flourish!

OBJECTIVE SEVEN: YOUNG PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE AN INCREASED INVOLVEMENT TOWARDS COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES.

Through the Clubhouse, we link our members with community activities and initiatives related to STEM. This is a vital part of increasing the social and digital inclusion of our members, and building a stronger connection to their local community.

In 2015, a highlight event for the Clubhouse was participating in National Science Week. With the generous support of the ACT National Science Week Committee, a group of Clubhouse members attended the annual Science in ACTion event, showcasing their work and the Clubhouse to schools, STEM organisations and other groups in the ACT.

This was a great opportunity for members to take ownership of the Clubhouse, represent the program publicly, and connect with other local groups and organisations.

We will continue to engage with community activities and events through the Clubhouse, and encourage our members to pursue similar activities in their own time.

THE IMPACT OF MENTORS

Mentors are an important part of the Clubhouse model, and help to build skills and knowledge in our members, as well as connecting them to opportunities for work experience and pathways into the industry.

Since the launch of the YWCA Clubhouse, we have seen the impact of mentors firsthand, in helping to grow the confidence of our members by sharing their knowledge, and continuing to build the community of the Clubhouse through their own networks.

Meet a mentor

Sharen Scott

How long have you been connected to the Clubhouse?

I became involved with the Clubhouse when it was first being established, prior to the official opening. I found it to be a fantastic initiative for youth to become involved in as it provides them with the opportunity to expand upon their curiosity and creativity using alternative options.

What kind of activities have you mentored or assisted with in your time at the Clubhouse?

I have mostly been involved in encouraging members of the Clubhouse to explore and experiment with the various tools available to them, such as digital photography and the multimedia facilities. It's fantastic to witness the growth in the abilities and outlook of the participating members regarding the possibilities of what they can achieve when given access to the technology available to them.

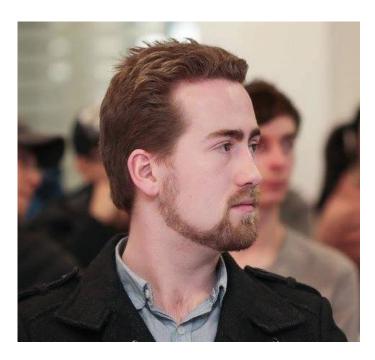


What have you found most rewarding about being a mentor at the Clubhouse?

I can only reiterate what I have said, in that it's a wonderful experience to observe the progress being made by members of the Clubhouse, especially the confidence, knowledge and experience they gain.

Meet a mentor

Benjamin Semmler



How long have you been connected to the Clubhouse?

I've been a mentor at the Clubhouse ever since I learned about it at a game developer meetup in 2014. Now I help out at the clubhouse when I can on Mondays and Tuesdays.

What kind of activities have you mentored or assisted with in your time at the Clubhouse?

With my experience as a game developer and 3D animator I find that I can help out mostly with computer things ranging from prepping 3D models for printing to image manipulation.

What have you found most rewarding about being a mentor at the Clubhouse?

As a mentor it's been a really rewarding learning experience, as I get to play with a whole new bunch of software, which I'm becoming more familiar with each day. Plus I get to meet a whole lot of wonderful people. At the Clubhouse I feel like my skills are valued and appreciated, which validates my dreams of becoming a teacher.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The sustainability and success of the YWCA 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.

We are proud that our partners span the government, private and community sectors – together we are making an incredible impact on young people's lives!

Below is a list of our partners and the contributions they have made:



THE SNOW FOUNDATION

The Snow Foundation provided a generous \$20,000 grant to the Clubhouse to support the operational aspects of the project.



DIMENSION DATA

As part of its corporate social responsibility strategy, Heads, Hearts and Hands, Dimension Data Australia came on board as a founding partner of our Clubhouse. Dimension Data designed and deployed the IT environment, and is providing ongoing IT support to the Clubhouse.

In addition, Dimension Data raised \$10,000 for the Clubhouse in 2014.



MICROSOFT

Microsoft is a founding partner of our Clubhouse, and was instrumental in its establishment and strategic development.

The Microsoft team continues to be active contributors through mentoring and the donation of hardware and software



COORDINATE

Coordinate is a founding partner our Clubhouse, and has provided in-kind support by way of developing its marketing collateral, both digital and print.



HSBC

HSBC Canberra provide both in-kind and financial support to ensure the viability of this important community initiative.



LOCKHEED MARTIN AUSTRALIA

Lockheed Martin Australia have provided financial support to ensure our members can travel to engage in educational and vocational excursions, in Australia and beyond, as well as funding the development of a new audio visual production suite in the Clubhouse.



NICTA

NICTA has generously donated a 3D printer so our members can design and manufacture their own 3D objects.



WACOM

Wacom Australia donated 10 reconditioned Intuos5 Medium graphics tablets, so that our members can hone their digital design skills.



AARNET & ACTDE

AARNet (Australia's Academic and Research Network) and ACTDE provided internet connectivity to the Clubhouse pro bono, which is vital for enabling skill development in digital technologies.



ACADEMY OF INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Academy of Interactive Entertainment generously donated 10 refurbished desktop computers to the Clubhouse, providing the foundation of our technical setup!



ACIDLABS

AcidLabs signed up our very first Clubhouse Mentor, to share their valuable skills with our members.



ACT EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTORATE

The ACT Education and Training Directorate have supported Richardson Primary School to partner with the YWCA Clubhouse.



COLLABIT

CollabIT has leveraged its networks to help spread the word about the YWCA Clubhouse, and encourage support within the community for this exciting program.



INTRAVISION

Intravision has provided the installation of cabling and electrical work for the Clubhouse at a below cost rate.



RICHARSDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Richardson Primary School are a key partner to YWCA Canberra in this important initiative.



THE GOOD GUYS TUGGERANONG

The Good Guys Tuggeranong kindly donated eight 12 inch monitors for the Clubhouse's desktop PCs.



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

The YWCA Clubhouse engages with the broader community throughout the year through a number of activities and events. As well as connecting with the global Clubhouse Network through the Annual Conference and regional Conference, our Coordinators undertake outreach to local schools, community centres and participate in events to help spread the word about the Clubhouse and ensure that as many young people as possible can benefit from the program.

Some of the highlights from 2014 and 2015 are below.

Y-Aspire

We hosted a special day at the Clubhouse for participants of YWCA Canberra's Y-Aspire program. Y-Aspire is a leadership program for young women in years 7 and 8 of high school. The program covers topics including identity, skills and skill building, body confidence, relationships and careers.

The participants from the 2015 Y-Aspire program came together for a special follow-up session at the Clubhouse, where they had the chance to reflect on their experiences of the program and make a creative response using the technology in the Clubhouse.

The girls got stuck into making creative responses using Photoshop, using tablets to draw, and made good use of our new AV equipment to make a short film.

Many of the girls expressed how exciting it was to be able to play with technology, and took membership forms home with them. It was great seeing the space used to both create and reflect on everything the girls had learnt during Y-Aspire.

National Science Week

Our Clubhouse members had the chance to participate in National Science Week in 2015 through the Science In ACTion event, which 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 Clubhouse to attend Science In ACTion.

PhotoAccess – The Big Picture Project

The Big Picture Project is run by PhotoAccess in partnership with Lake Tuggeranong College, Tuggeranong Arts Center, Manuka Arts Center and the YWCA Clubhouse.

The program consists of an eight-week blackand-white film photography workshop for students of Lake Tuggeranong College, which was run in mid-2015. The students took photographs with



INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

In 2015, our Clubhouse Coordinators had the opportunity to attend two international Clubhouse Conferences – the Annual Conference held in Portland, Oregon in the USA in April, and the Asia-Pacific Conference held in New Zealand in September.

Both Conferences yielded many lessons learnt and insights that have been used to improve our Clubhouse. Some of the key lessons learnt from the Annual Conference included:

- How to foster more of a 'maker' community in the Clubhouse
- The importance of encouraging our members to tackle bigger projects
- Ideas and tips for implementing girls programming
- Ideas for introducing members to new technology; and
- Ways to collaborate with other Clubhouses.

In addition, following the Asia-Pacific Conference, our Coordinators introduced more social ice-breakers to the Clubhouse to help engage new members who might feel less comfortable getting involved in their first few weeks in the space, as well as planning to introduce an afternoon tea each day where members can eat together and share their thoughts and interests informally before getting stuck into their projects.



GET INVOLVED

We are always looking for new partners, mentors, and Clubhouse Ambassadors to join us on this journey.

If you or your organisation would like to get involved, please contact us using the detail below:

Zoya Patel

Corporate Relations and Advocacy Manager

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