



NEWCASTLE YOUTH COUNCIL

Meeting minutes for Thursday 19 April 2018

Chairperson – Jacob Gamble

Minute Taker – Jacob Gamble and Stephen Warham

1. Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

2. Introduction & Apologies:

Present:

Stephen Warham – Facilitator

Kelsey Gray - Member

Jacob Gamble - Chairperson

David Graham - Guest

Jack Hayden - Vice Chairperson

Olivia - Guest

Monique Aganovic - Social Media Officer

Jaimie Brassil - Guest

Apologies: Amber, Laura (YDO), Anakha, Gwen, Riordan, Rizina, Ashley, Cr

Clausen, Cr Whinney-Baartz, Cr Duncan

3. Budget: NYC currently has \$3,825 and \$0 for Youth Week.

4. Approved Minutes from previous meeting - Review held over for next meeting.

5. Business arising from previous Minutes

- Previous Minute items were discussed. Nothing to report.

6. General Business

- Kelsey and Monique are now official Youth Council members after attending their third meeting, congratulations.
- Jose's Resignation: Jose has resigned from NYC. We thanked him for his efforts and contribution to the Council and wish him all the best in future.
- Volunteer Morning Tea: Newcastle Council will be holding a morning tea for volunteers from 10am to 11.30am on Thursday the 24th of May. All Youth Council members are invited.
- NYC T-shirt selected design was noted.
- David Graham from the Hunter Writer's Centre discussed the 'Secret Spaces Youth Writing Competition' and Youth Council members agreed to help him spread awareness of the competition to engage more young people in writing.

David hopes to remain in touch with Newcastle Youth Council and we will endeavour to facilitate an ongoing relationship. He can be contacted via email: admin@hunterwriterscentre.org or by messaging 'Word Hurl Anti Slam' (his poetry slam night) on Facebook.

ACTION ITEM: Monique to post about Hunter Writers Centre Competition on social media.

- Library Youth Engagement: Jaimie and Olivia from the library's youth engagement sector discussed ideas for events that would attract 12-25 year olds to the library.

They heard contributions from Youth Council members. Ideas that were brought up include: interactive movie nights, trivia, 'Adulthood 101' workshops, bean bags/console areas, and the 'IRL' youth club. Jaimie and Olivia will stay in touch with Youth Council regarding any upcoming projects. Jaimie can be contacted via email - jbrasil@ncc.nsw.gov.au.

7. Youth Week Assessment

Youth Week Assessments - the group identified some issues that may have impacted on the success of some of the Youth Week events this year. These included:

- Controlling older young people (18+) who were smoking and drinking at Seeds of Youth.
- Hamilton South Youth Festival - activities were successful in appealing to children 10 years and below and their families, but could improve by broadening appeal to 12-18 year olds.
- Lack of activities e.g. at Seeds of Youth, there were bands to listen to but not much else.
- Adults planning youth events - can cause disconnect between target demographic and organisers.
- Niche focus on events - soccer, bands – perhaps a wider range of activities next year? e.g. silent disco, animal encounters, sports tournaments, art/craft.
- Marketing for all events was an area for improvement.
- Holding accessible events in areas outside of the CBD was identified as a strong point in this year's youth week program, but throughout the rest of the year could be improved on.

Strategies for improvement include:

- More consultations with young people/youth council.
- A compacted calendar of events over the course of a few days in similar locations rather than a week of disconnected events? – might increase appeal; draw more crowds by enhancing convenience.
- School Outreach, Instagram, Facebook, posters/pamphlets could all be used more effectively with advertising for the event beginning earlier in the year.
- Posting the events calendar in our own private Facebook group might help Youth Council members engage more with the week since some were not entirely informed of what was happening.
- Ask for help from strong influencers on social media/real life e.g. Nuatali Nelmes, the media- The Herald
- Collaboration with other Youth Councils – Lake Mac, Port Stephens - perhaps developing our own event?

ACTION ITEM: Jacob to draft survey monkey to send out to Youth Week event organisers after Youth Week.

8. 2018 Projects

- **Hunter Youth Mock Council** - Held over for next meeting.
- **Midnight Sounds:** Jack's project was discussed within the group, and the following contributions were made:
 - Potential venues: 48 Watt Street, The Press, and The Lock Up.
 - The event could be broadened beyond the 12-25 age demographic to all ages to attract more guests.
 - With the new venues, Midnight Sounds could potentially expand to include a market place with stalls from local businesses suffering under the light rail construction. This would also fulfil a need identified by Monique at the Seeds of Youth Festival for activities to do while watching the bands.

- Potential collaboration with Revitalise Newcastle and Newcastle Now - beneficial for promoting event and for help organising.
- School outreach for promotion.
- Generate income from businesses - take a % of profits. This could make Midnight Sounds sustainable, allowing us to do it again. Donations box could also be used as well??
- **Sustainability Festival:** Jacob's project was discussed, the following ideas were brought up:
 - Jaimie proposed that some of the speakers from Wallsend Library's 'Spring Fling' could speak.
 - The event could be broadened to showcase speakers across Wallsend and areas outside the CBD.
 - Potentially could collaborate with Lake Mac Youth Council, or contact Lake Mac Council/Alive Plant Based Festival about their sustainability festival?
 - Marketing - social media, school outreach, Instagram frame at the event, posters on community noticeboard?
 - Collaboration with Uni, TAFE, Library?
 - Stallholders: The Sauce, Scoop Wholefoods, The Edwards, NuSEC

9. Proud & Thankfuls

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 16 May 2018 Location: Newcastle Region Library (5-7pm)

Meeting Closed: 6.50pm