

25 MAY 2023

Message from the Mayor



Community Consultation: Future Focused Strategies

The Northern Midlands Council has developed five new draft community strategies and we asked you to have your say through community drop-in sessions and online surveys.

You gave us your views on

- Communications and Engagement
- Arts and Culture
- Economic Development
- Health and Wellbeing Youth Strategy

The sessions were independently facilitated, and I would like to thank everyone who contributed.

Celebrating our Youth

Our young people are the greatest agents of change in a society. They are tomorrow's leaders and active participation of young people is important including understanding their views and expectations.

The **Youth Advisory Group (YAG)** is a group for young people looking for ways to become involved with their community and create positive change. Maybe you have an idea that would enrich being a young person in Northern Midlands? An Art Competition, Youth Makers Market, Skate Park Competition, creating positive change and experiences for young people. Council is inviting you to join YAG and would like to provide you with the opportunity to share your ideas, be part of the youth movement and develop your leadership skills in a fun, supportive, and welcoming environment.

It's free to all young people aged 12 to 25 years old (and food is available at every meeting). Held monthly in Longford on a Thursday, the next meeting will be held in June. Contact our Youth Officer for more info.

Free2b Girls Longford has had a fabulous start to the year in Term 1, welcoming 10 new girls to the program, and they all enjoyed activities such as: friendships bracelets, cooking, outside games, stress ball creation, watercolour painting, developing new friendships and having lots of fun. If you are interested in volunteering with this group and helping to support our young people, please contact our Youth Officer.

SPARK: Campbell Town District High School Student Leaders have been successful in their application for a SPARK grant. The students project focus is to support student mental/physical health and wellbeing. Their project is student led offering range of games for young people to participate in at lunch time, offering opportunities to foster new friendships and participate in a wide range of activities whilst encouraging leadership development opportunities.

When the students at Cressy District High School celebrated **Youth Week**, they participated in a wide range of free activities for young people that were provided by organisations such as Youth Health North, The Mish, Longford Junior Fire Brigade, Longford Library, PCYC and more. The theme for Youth week was:

Acceptance: Be Bold. Be You!

Some activities included virtual reality games, 5 second challenge, price is right, rock painting, creative puzzle making, word searches, active games, free hot chocolate and looking at fire & vehicle emergency response gear.



Students setting up a Swag with Salvation Army



Longford Junior Fire Brigade showing Kindergarten students their safety gear



Student Leaders selling Cookies as their fundraiser.

Gabi, School Chaplain said "It was a real privilege to watch our student leaders' partner with Natalie to help plan and implement this youth week event. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to stretch their leadership skills and serve the student community."



High school student expressing creativity with rock painting with The Mish



Longford Library demonstrating the virtual reality games.

Congratulations Lachie Oliver

From time to time, Council is asked to assist Individuals or teams of the Northern Midlands Council area who achieve representation for Tasmania in national or international events of amateur status via our donations policy. Lachie Oliver was one of our recipients and he wrote the following letter to me:

Dear Mayor Knowles,

Thank you for approval of the donation from Council. I was selected as part of the Tassie team for Track Nationals where I won Gold with my team in the Junior Men Under 19 Team pursuit. I did Track Oceanias after this, winning a bronze medal in the Team Pursuit. I then went on to the Oceania Road race where I was caught up in a crash, but not hurt. I was able to get repairs to my bike that day, and competed in the National Road Series race the following morning (102 km) where I came 59th out of 126 riders, ranging from my age group of under 19, to under 23 and Elite men. I have attached some photos and we appreciate the council's assistance very much.

Thank you,
Lachie Oliver.



Congratulations Lachie. You are an inspiration and a role model to our youth.

Mary Knowles OAM
Mayor