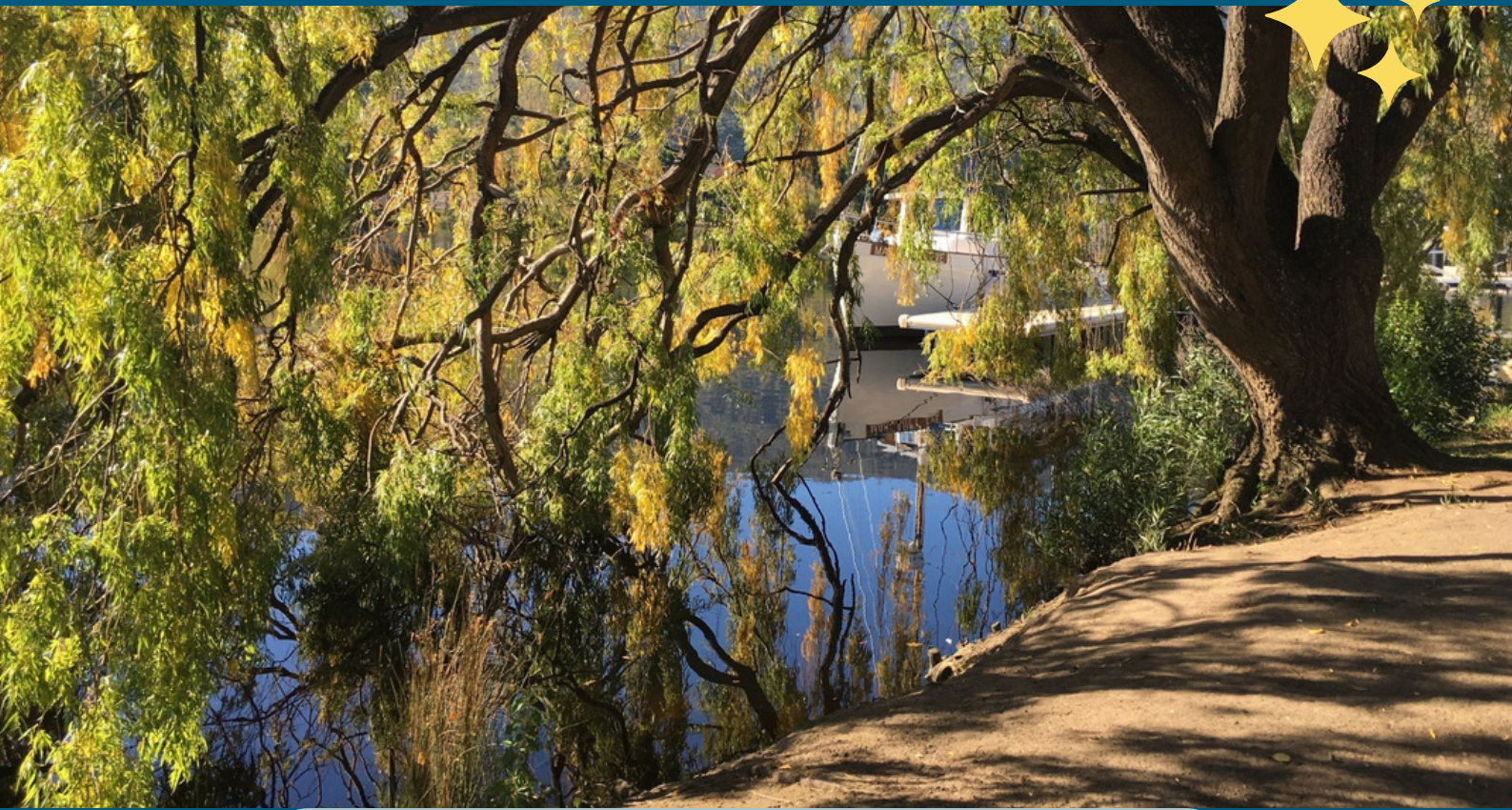




DERWENT VALLEY YOUTH SUMMIT

WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2023



**WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY RESPECT
TO THE TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL
COMMUNITY AS THE TRADITIONAL AND
ORIGINAL OWNERS AND CONTINUING
CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND ON WHICH WE
WORK ON, AND ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY
RESPECT TO ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT,
AND EMERGING.**

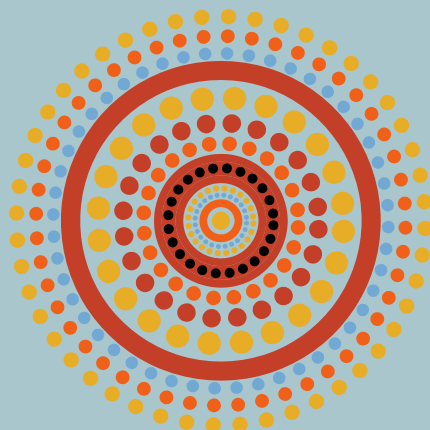


TABLE OF CONTENTS

01
Summary

02
Purpose and Objectives

03
Participation

04
Tools and techniques

05
Underpinning - ABCD

06
Why now?

07
Evidence

8 - 11
The gold

12
Education wrap

13
Wellbeing wrap

14
Safety wrap

15 & 16
The wrap up - what does this mean?

17
Thank you



DERWENT VALLEY YOUTH SUMMIT 2023

SUMMARY

Derwent Valley Council, in partnership with Communities for Children, hosted a Youth Summit inviting all supporters of young people, to hear from young people and have input into supporting a positive change for youth in the Valley.

Not only is the Derwent Valley Council interested in hearing the voices of our young people in their communities and identifying ways to work together, but we are also looking for connection and actions that create a community where young people are engaged, thrive, and supported to be their best in their futures.

This summit was an opportunity to bring together the young people of the Derwent Valley to share their ideas, experiences, dreams, and concerns for our region; to share their thoughts, expand their possibilities and focus on positive outcomes for shared community leadership.

At the Summit we hosted purposeful participatory engagement opportunities that collectively create significant connections for the future. We asked everyone involved to bring an open mind to listen, participate and experience first-hand the stories, passions, and visions of the future from our young people.

Participants identified people in positions of influence in the community that could potentially use their shared experience and position, to promote a better understanding of the needs and realities of young people in the Derwent Valley.

Approximately 45 young people and 45 adults attended the Summit.



OUR YOUTH - OUR FUTURE



SUMMIT PURPOSE

The purpose of the Derwent Valley Council Youth Summit was to:

- Engage with young people and give them a voice and real dialogue with their community of supporters.
- Offer an opportunity to engage in the planning and delivery of a Summit.

An engagement opportunity for input into:

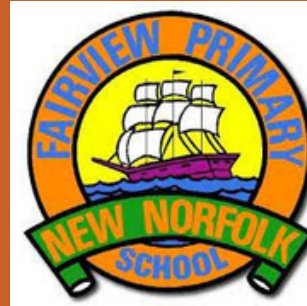
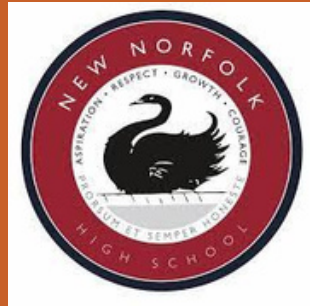
- The Derwent Valley Strategic Plan with a youth focus and any Youth Strategies for the future.
- Offer an opportunity to have input into changing how things have been operating in the Valley for/with young people.



OBJECTIVES

- **Further develop relationships** with young people in the valley to create an opportunity for dialogue and input into what affects them.
- To give young people an **opportunity to collaborate** with a diverse range of community.
- To gain **input into the Strategic Plan**, and youth focused policies/strategies in the Derwent Valley.
- To have clear **guidelines for partnership development**, and/or funding for a better future for youth in the Derwent Valley.
- To show the young people of the Derwent Valley that people are **listening**.
- **Build capacity** of young people to be the drivers of change.

PARTICIPATION



Input into the pre-summit work included:

- Community engagement at the New Norfolk Autumn Festival.
 - Approximately 50 young people engaged in this opportunity.
- Engagement with Year 7 students at New Norfolk High School that were involved in the stepping up program, supported by Kids in the Valley.
- Engagement with local schools:
 - Westerway Primary School
 - Fairview Primary School
 - New Norfolk High School
- D'FAT – Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team
- Young mums' group - Ptunarra Child and Family Centre
- Interested individuals.



Funded by the Australian Government
Department of Social Services





TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Strengths based methodologies:

- Co-Design
- Asset Based Community Development
- Participatory Community Building
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Person Centered Practice
- Results Based Accountability

CODESIGN IN ACTION



UNDERPINNING



The Youth Summit was underpinned by the principles and practices of Asset Based Community Development - ABCD.

ABCD is a globally adopted approach that recognises and builds on the strengths, gifts, talents and resources of individuals and communities to create strong, inclusive, and sustainable communities.

ABCD is a powerful approach to community engagement and development that focuses on abilities and potential, rather than problems and deficits by discovering the resources that are already present in a community.

Discovering community strengths is a powerful and productive way to realise a collective vision. By building relationships and creating the space for opportunities to emerge, community members become powerful and are more in control of their own decision making.

Using these methodologies allows for the best input and participation from young people and an evidence-based enquiry that promotes collective impact “nothing about us, without us”.

By working in a transparent way, we were able to collect reliable and valuable quantitative and qualitative data. We needed to hear, see, and understand the story behind the data as well as look beyond the surface to gain a better understanding of the true picture our young people face day to day.

The Summit was underpinned by knowledge of the evidence collected in the discussions and pre-workshops undertaken by Council staff. A regular working group and mentor space was key to the ongoing reflective, transparent, and research-based component of the Summit design.

WHY NOW??

LET'S DO THIS!

Some history was shared as to 'why now?'. The first conversation/ interview was with a young person about growing up in the Derwent Valley. This set the tone for the entire day, with people listening and engaged.

Themes from this conversation were about community safety, accessing support for tertiary education, support for those with a disability, absence of activities to do after school, and undiagnosed learning needs.

The first group activity was a world cafe style activity.

Three questions were posed, with 30 minutes to respond to all questions.

We asked:

1. WHAT DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HAPPENING FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
2. WHAT DOES YOUR DREAM COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE?
3. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO COMMIT TO BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION?

WHAT DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HAPPENING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?



- More appropriate language in our community – race and discrimination
- No prices going up – food and fuel.
- Urbanisation
- Behaviour – bullying and violence.
- Poor mental health
- Boredom, loneliness, isolation
- Bullying
- Sense of entitlement/ selfishness
- Lack of opportunity – education, jobs, services

EVIDENCE



Evidence of pre-summit work and existing strategies were displayed around the building setting the the scene. This included:

- maps of the area
- existing assets for young people in the Derwent Valley
- messages and artworks that the young people wanted to share
- pre-recorded stories and questions
- supporting documents and strategies.



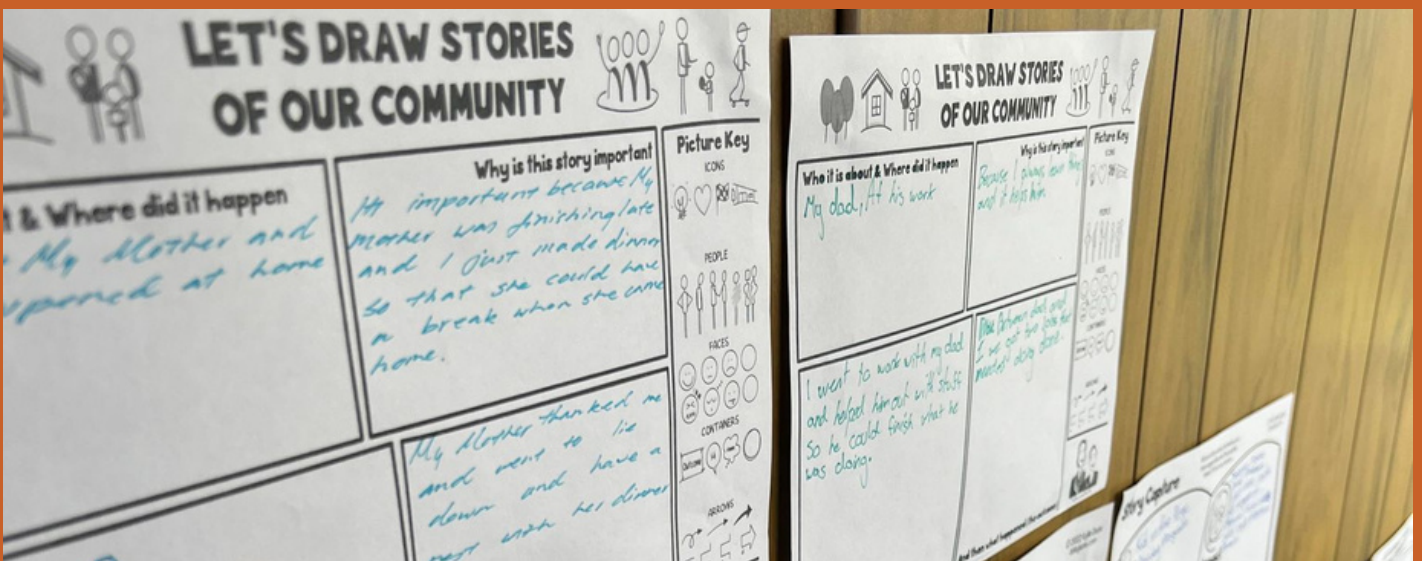
A video message of support was shared from the Honorable Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth.

Participants sat in a circle, providing an opportunity for all to be equal, everyone to show up and to listen with attention, speak with intention and, importantly, create a safe space for the group.

Adults and young people, the Mayor of the Derwent Valley Council, and elected representatives, service providers and supporters of young people together.

With comfortable bean bags, disco ball, hot drinks, and cakes, the environment welcomed them in.

Prefects for the New Norfolk High school welcomed participants to the Summit and shared an acknowledgement of Country.



**ACCESSIBLE
ACTIVITIES**

**BIGGER AND
BETTER
THINGS**

**SAFER
COMMUNITY**

**AFTER
SCHOOL
PROGRAMS**

**YOUTH
SUPPORT
SERVICES**

**A MULTI
PURPOSE
WARM SPACE
WITH THINGS
TO DO!**

**YOUTH
CENTRE
(LIKE THE
YOUTH ARC
IN HOBART)**

WHAT DOES YOUR DREAM COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?

HOW WILL YOU BE PART OF THE SOLUTION?



**BE AN
ACTIVE
MEMBER OF
THE
COMMUNITY**

**PUBLIC
SPEAKING
AND BE
HEARD!**

**PUSH FOR
CHANGE -
BE THE
CHANGE**

**VOLUNTEER
TIME AND
EFFORT**

SPEAK UP!

**EMPOWER
PEOPLE
AROUND US**

**SETTING
THINGS UP
THAT ARE
SELF-
SUSTAINING**

**BEING
RESPONSIBLE
AND HELPFUL**

SPEED THINKING



WHAT ARE OUR CURRENT ASSETS?

**GOVERNMENT
AND NON-
GOVERNMENT**

Asset Based Community Development activity:

Speed dates on six community assets:

INDIVIDUALS

**ECONOMIC
ASSETS**

**STORIES,
HERITAGE AND
CULTURE**

**COMMUNITY
GROUPS AND
NETWORKS**

**PHYSICAL -
BUILT AND
NATURAL**



This activity gave the community a good opportunity to see and know there are a lot of assets in the community –

How do we know about them?

How do we activate and utilise them?

How do we as a community collaborate and lead, advocate and facilitate better outcomes for young people?



LET'S WORK IT ALL OUT

**YOUTH
SPACE**

ART CLUB



**ACTIVITIES/
LEADERSHIP**

Young people were given the opportunity to pitch eight ripe ideas.

They were asked to spruik their ideas to the larger group and invite interested others to work together in small groups.

The groups looked to investigate the support required to work on success. Thinking about input required for commitment, next steps, and actions.

The 8 ideas pitched were.....

**MARTIAL
ARTS**

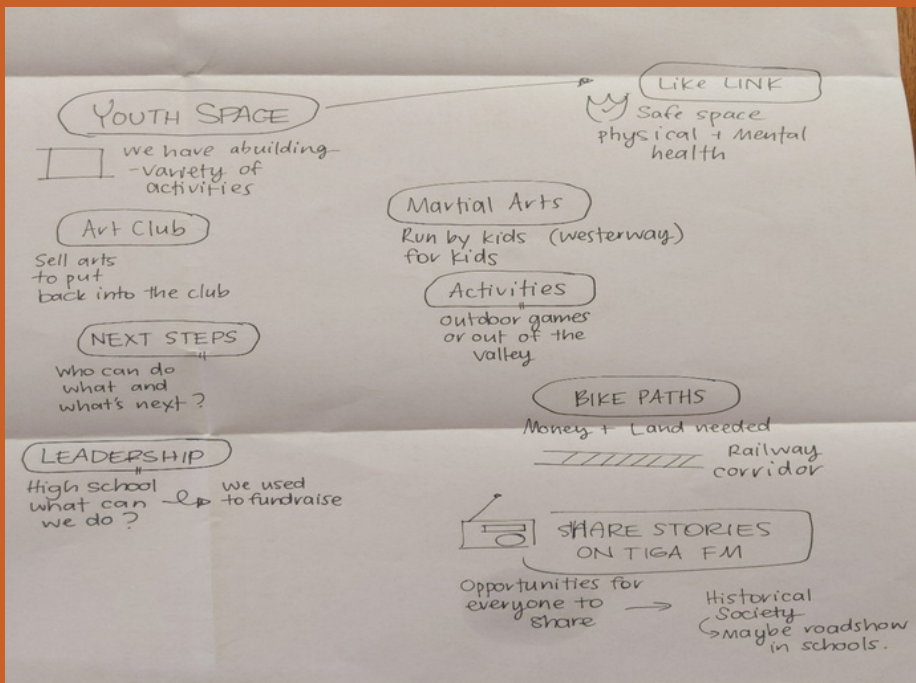
**YOUTH
HEALTH
SPACE**

BIKE PATHS

**TELL OUR
STORIES ON
TYGAFM**

NEXT STEPS





THIS ACTIVITY CREATED MUCH EXCITEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE HEARING OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL SPACE, RESOURCE SUPPORT AND GOODWILL FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND AGENCIES.

.... TO BELONG....

I NEED TO FEEL	I AM....	I WOULD LIKE...	I WILL BE...	I MAY NEED EXTRA.....	I WANT TO SEE....	OTHERS NEED TO BE	TOGETHER WE CAN	WE NEED MORE...	WHAT ELSE?
HEALTHY	CREATIVE	RESPECT	HONEST	HELP	HAPPY PEOPLE	HAPPY	GROW	HELP	
HAPPY	REFLECTIVE	TIME	FUN	STAMINA	FRIENDSHIPS	INCLUDED	DREAM BIG	DIVERSITY	
LOVED	TOUGH	PATIENCE	UNDERSTANDING	TOLERANCE	EDUCATION	HEARD	SUPPORTER	SUPPORT	
INCLUDED	DETERMINED	RESPONSIBILITY	BRAVE	LOVE	CONNECTION	HEALTHY	MAKE SPACES	DOERS!	
UNDERSTOOD	SCARED	INDEPENDANCE	REFLECTIVE	HOPE	SAFE PLACES	WANTED	BE UNDERSTANDING	COMMITMENT	
STRONG	CARING	STABILITY	COMMITTED	SKILLS	PARTNERSHIPS	HARDWORKING	BE STRONG	OPPORTUNITIES	
IN CONTROL	HARD WORKING	LOVE	FRIENDLY	LISTENING	TRUST	FRIENDLY	BE CREATIVE	TIME	
GUIDED	HAPPY	SUPPORT	GENEROUS	TIME	RESPECT	PATIENT	LEARN TOGETHER	PARTNERSHIPS	
WANTED	RESPECTFUL	SAFE SPACES	SHARING	RESOURCES	CULTURE	LISTENING	BE RESPONSIBLE	SPACES TO BE	
SUPPORTED	GROWING	TO BE HEARD	SUPPORTIVE	OPPORTUNITIES	OPPORTUNITY	HONEST	INCLUDE EVERYONE	SMILES	

TAKE ACTION

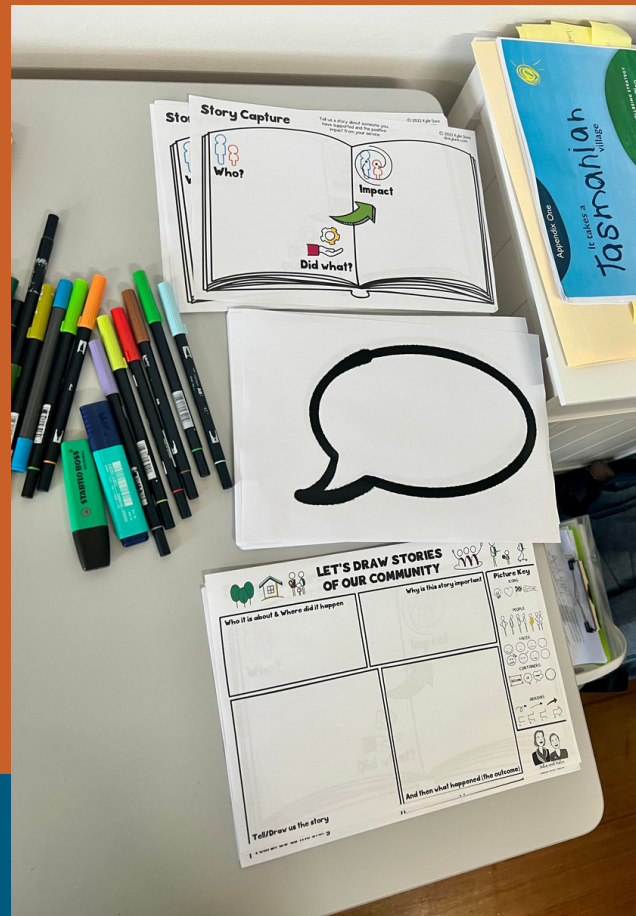
LET'S WRAP IT UP

The final activity at the end of a long day involved 3 groups looking at the themes that had come up over the whole engagement process, pre-Summit and at the Summit.

The themes the groups looked at were:

EDUCATION

- Variety of choices
- Volunteers in schools
- More free transport to schools
- Life skills
- More opportunities for lessons
- More trade centers
- Connection to pathways
- A PE TEACHER! LAT teachers fill vacancies with passionate community members!!
- More STEM
- Lego Club
- Free fruit - morning tea
- A teacher that listens and lets you talk
- School starting later in the day, so students have more time to get there
- More chill-out spaces



WELLBEING



- o Wellbeing audit
 - o Hope
 - o Accessible audit
 - o LGBTQIA culture
 - o Sense of purpose
 - o Agency
 - o Pride in identity
 - o Laughter
 - o People with capacity
 - o Supporting people with needs
 - o Dignity and choice
 - o Emotional support
 - o Housing security
 - o Bringing generations together
 - o A voice for people with disability
 - o Loneliness
 - o Physical health support
 - o Employment
- 

- o Support the vulnerable
- o Diversity
- o Food security
- o Diverse healthy diet
- o Sustainable food system
- o Education and resources
- o Access to natural beauty and spaces
- o Sense of acceptance
- o Mental health support – youth
- o Connection – needs – each other.
- o Balance
- o Safety
- o Opportunity – opportunity to stay in the area and thrive
- o Rich cultural life

Top three wellbeing issues:

Mental Health

Community Connection

Pride in identity and place.



SAFETY



Shared spaces - safer use of space.

Feeling comfortable at home.

Animal safety – fear of large dogs coming over the fence.

Bush watch

Have a phone

Communication

Looking after yourself – wear a helmet


Stranger danger

Lighting

Hands and feet to ourselves!



Top four safety concerns that were shared:

- Internet Safety
 - Do not look to cause trouble – look to solve it
 - Respect Authority
 - Personal safety –including - wear a helmet
- 

THE CHECK OUT

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THIS SUMMIT?



- We mean well, but we stopped, listened and now we know better.
- If a young person says there is a challenge – let's listen.
- The discussion about youth services in the area – how to bring aspects into the high school.
- Be mindful not to underestimate young people.
- **Inspiring! Full of knowledge and opportunities**
- Empower the youth!
- Pride in the community is on the rise. Need to encourage young people to become visible leaders
- Young people WANT change!
- **We made history today!**
- The summit showed good steps towards some goals.
- Was so good to hear the passion for a change.
- **We focused on the opportunities not the stuff we get bogged down in.**
- There is such a sense of HOPE and generosity in the community.
- We have forgotten how to celebrate and share our stories in a positive way.

**YOUNG PEOPLE REALLY CARE ABOUT
THE COMMUNITY AND THE FUTURE IS
IN GOOD HANDS.**

- There is good stuff happening in community – we need to connect more.
- Let the youth lead their conversations – they can do it.
- We need to take more time to go to the young people and listen to them.
- Communicate in different ways!
- Today was a very helpful day.
- The people in Derwent Valley are motivated and we ALL have a role to play.
- The passion and energy for change is inspiring.
- **What's next? Can we share all this information, we have only just begun.**
- Meeting so many wonderful people who care about our community.
- Young people who know what they want, it's our job to support them – “WITH not TO”
- There is room for everyone to help in the community.
- Organisations and businesses need to come together.
- Giving Derwent Valley a voice in all matters that affect them is good.

THE CHECK OUT



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT THIS SUMMIT?

- I'm going to seek change in my own family and community. Include the older generations for support.
- **The buzz of energy in the room! Wow!**
- We need actions now and we already have young leaders amongst us.
- CYW team. Privileged to have been here – we need to listen and enable.
- This journey is for everyone.
- Popcorn!
- Give children a voice, they have a lot to say.
- **We need to create space and opportunity.**
- Mindful not to underestimate young people.
- Wonderful to hear from young people and sector representatives. As a resident, empowered to see what change is possible.
- We connect through our stories, and we need to be part of more stories and share them!

YOUNG PEOPLE WANT CHANGE!

WE NEED ACTIONS NOW AND WE ALREADY HAVE YOUNG LEADERS AMONGST US.

- Lots of great work today, always room to make it better.
- Lots of good kids in our community
- The work we have done here today should be mirrored in every community so they can make things localised.
- So proud to be a part of this and connecting to make the dreams happen.
- Young people are very switched on and we “oldies” better watch out!
- Change is coming.
- Community helping community.
- Go to the people – Start at the schools and keep them in the loop always!
- Work together, make stuff happen and see it through.
- Take time to take the right steps – we are not starting fresh; we just need to bring the old into the new and make them the future.
- While pride in the community waxes and wanes, it is on the rise. I want to be part of the rise.

OUR THANKS TO:

- Westerway Primary School
- Fairview Primary School
- New Norfolk High School
- D'FAT
- Montana
- Communities for Children
- Kids in the Valley,
- and all the individuals for contributing to this Derwent Valley Youth Summit.



A huge thank you to Fiona Miller from Jedar Institute for her facilitation and support throughout this process.

