

Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee Annual Report 2021



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Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee 2021

Meet the Members *Written by Abdullah Ayaz*

Introduction

2021 enchanted a newfound sense of hope and encouragement for us in contrast to the preceding year. The committee of Whitehorse has presented a countless number of opportunities to the community. The Whitehorse Youth Representative Council had taken the initiative to open doors by housing in-person events and gatherings. These events have helped give a voice to the youth of Whitehorse signifying what WYRC stands for.



Daniel J Ware



Elvis Yang



Michelle Tan



Shania Desouza



Abdullah Ayaz



Noor Ayaz



Ian Desouza



Lavinia Tjangdjaja



Jessica Chung



Lalita Aiman



Christina Yu



Alexander Srbinovski

Background of Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee

Written by Elvis Yang

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee (WYRC) is a group of young volunteers aged 12-25 who aim to voice for all young people across the Whitehorse City and contribute to Whitehorse City Council to help them discuss youth issues. The group meets fortnightly at Youth ConneXions in Box Hill and online due to Covid when necessary.

AIM

The main purpose of WYRC is to provide a pathway for youth voices in the Whitehorse community to be heard by the City Council. Our primary aims are:

- Gathering important youth issues raised by youth people and report them to council
- Offering youth people, a way to connect themselves with their peers by developing events.
- Educating youth in the Whitehorse community on important youth issues.
- Offering the young people of Whitehorse a place that they can get involved in, share their ideas and boost their creativity.

BENEFIT

As a member of WYRC, you will be able to collaborate with ambitious young people from different backgrounds under a “Family like” environment. There a lot of benefits and skills come with being a member of WYRC including:

- Improve public speaking skills
- Leadership qualities
- Communication skills
- Problem solving
- Certificates are offered with different training programs.
- Event management experiences
- A precious chance to meet new people and engage like-minded friends.
- Chances to attend venues, forums and public events as a youth representative from Whitehorse.

RECRUITMENT

Young people aged 12-25 who have a connection to the City of Whitehorse through residence, education or work can apply for a place on the committee. Recruitment is advertised widely in the community from November to January via Seek.com, Whitehorse News, schools, and youth services social media channels. Candidates attend an interview where goals, expectations and responsibilities of being a member are discussed. This is done via a formal process, which is designed to provide real-world experiences for young people to experience life skills specifically the employment process.

Induction and Meeting with the Mayor *Written by Christina Yu*

The 2021 induction was held online on February 17th instead of in person due to the pandemic restrictions. We made the most of the situation connecting for the first time together on the screen and beginning our exciting year together. One of the key first tasks was to brainstorm our Group Agreement that would contain the values, responsibilities, and commitments we wanted to make to each other and to the committee given our standing as representatives of young people within the Whitehorse community. We then had some fun with icebreaker activities to get to know each other and went through our Induction Manuals that covered all aspects of the WYRC. We then brainstormed 2022 events and ideas and made some preliminary plans for the year.

A fortnight later on March 3rd was our first meeting at the Nunawading Civic Centre with Frank Perrone (Youth Services Team Leader) and Mayor Andrew Munroe. Frank formally explained how the committee's work fitted into the broader context within Youth Services at Whitehorse City Council and how it benefited young people across Whitehorse. We took an extensive tour through the Civic Centre and Council Chambers with Mayor Munroe to understand the role of the Council and the work they do for the community, and how our role as volunteers served the Council and local community. We also had discussions with Mayor Munroe about important youth issues, which was awesome.



Training 2021

1. Event Management – The Push *Written by Alexander Srbinovski*

On May 5th 2021 the WYRC worked with 'The Push' to develop the skills necessary for the 'Reach the Peak' summit and other committee initiatives. The Push is an Australian youth music organisation and registered charity based in Melbourne. At the forefront of emerging trends, The Push delivers a range of programs that are responsive to Australia's future music industry leaders, artists and audiences.

The event management workshop carefully explained how to create, plan, and manage events effectively and efficiently. By using a four-stage formula, we were able to use problem-solving and goal-orientated techniques to plan our event. Firstly the 'Initiation' stage where we learned about event conceptualization, identification, scope, purpose, objective, venue location, and budgeting for an event. The initiation stage enabled the committee to learn how to research for an event before event preparation. Goal setting and comprehension were two other important aspects associated at the initial stage. Once the critical factors of the event design and task delegation were completed, then moved on to the second stage.

At the second stage, 'Planning' proceeded to teach us how to prepare and plan for an event. We learned how to organize and delegate tasks amongst a group to achieve an overarching objective. The workshop broke down this stage of how to plan in the pre-announcement stage. This stage factored in how to communicate with potential partners and event caterers, contact venues, a create risk plans and a plan of action to ensure the safety of



eventgoers. Once the pre-announcement stage is completed, we then proceeded to learn about the post-announcement stage. At this stage, the committee learned how to advertise and market the event to the community. Then we proceeded to learn how to finalize event planning and scheduling to ensure preparation can proceed to the third stage, event implementation.

At this stage, the planning and conceptualization methods we learned previously, were implemented to present the event to the community. We learned how to organize the proceedings of an event and set up the event for the patrons attending the event. Including learning about logistics and performance art management. This stage was critical in learning how to practice testing the event to ensure that any areas that needed tidying were done before event commencement.

In the final stage titled 'Post Event', we were taught how to engage with attendees'. Then proceeded to inform us about post-event report writing, and how to conduct a staff debrief. The immensely important workshop facilitated the WYRC committee with the skills to deliver an event that positively impacted the community on October 4th, 2021. The professionalism and kindness demonstrated by 'The Push' was incredible.

2. Youth Affairs Council of Victoria – Advocacy

Written by Lavinia Tjangdjaja

On the 24th January, WYRC and FReeZA committee members attended the online YacVic Youth Advocacy Training where committee members of the WYRC were inspired to create change within our community. Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) is the peak body and leading policy advocate for young people and the youth sector in Victoria.

During this training session, we explored the different facets of advocacy and leadership, which allowed us to identify various solutions and strategies that we could employ in the future in order to solve social issues in our community. Using real-life case studies and examples, we were also encouraged to consider the many stakeholders of certain issues and how to engage these stakeholders in order to raise awareness. Overall, this training session has allowed us to reflect upon our own advocacy journeys whilst also encouraging us to envision how we can improve our public advocacy.

3. Marketing and Promotion – The Push *Written by Noor Ayaz*

On the 12th of May Aarti from The Push housed a training session on another critical focus, "Marketing and Promotions." This was essential to run through as it incorporated a vast variety of beneficial marketing strategies for events. It was informative and was conveyed with a constructive approach. Due to the Youth forum sauntering around the corner, we contributed and shortlisted the most strategic tactics to implement at the event. Aarti's experiences steered us to the conclusion that a social media presence is vital to best promote events. After thoroughly discussing various platforms, we established that Facebook would be the most tactful way to showcase the events to a substantial audience. Thanks to Aarti's incredible expertise on this subject matter, we had a thorough understanding of how to execute marketing and promotion strategies for events such as the Youth Forum!

4. Social Media Officer *Written by Christina Yu*

On the 19th April Georgia Paterakis, councils Social Media Lead delivered training to our WYRC and FReeZA Social Media Coordinators. There were 3 SMC's from each committee. The aim of the training was to explore creating, publishing content on Youth ConneXions Social Media accounts to promote Youth Service, and committee related activities and events. This included posting content, scheduling tips, permissions and operating Facebook business manager. SMC's go through this training so they understand councils processes around posting on social media including the risks associated. These 6 volunteers take on their SMC role in addition to being a general member on their respective committee. They create visuals using the Canva program and learn about council approval processes associated. This initiative is awesome and appreciated and they are each a great asset to their committees in delivering their important initiatives and events throughout the year.

5. First Aid Training *Written by Christina Yu*



Unfortunately, we were not able to run and host a face to face training this year due to pandemic restrictions. However, we were able to organise this important training online. Young people from both our WYRC and FReeZA volunteer Committees completed the St Johns Workplace Level 2 First Aid training over select online course sessions across November and December. First Aid is a vital skill for our members as they go onto participate in various conferences, activities, events, or in any environment, and can possibly mean the difference between life and death in an emergency. The training was deep and through course into learning how to deal with numerous first aid emergencies. It was perfect for those wanting a refresher or earning their certificate for the first time with a mix of theory using modern technology and practical activities to learn CPR and treating injuries. Upon completion, everyone earned their Provide First Aid certificate which included CPR.

6. Consultation and Community Engagement *Written by Noor Ayaz*

On the 13th of April, Renee Andresson from Community Development department at council from FreeZA Consultation and Community Engagement training to the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee. This was yet another essential branch to cover, as there were many concepts to grasp. Community engagement as a whole is a process in which individuals and groups are allowed to have a voice in decisions or actions that may affect or interest them. Renee overall covered topics that varied across many aspects such as ways we could empower individuals, promoting unity to generate unique tactics or ideas which could be implemented towards making a drastic change for the better in the community's lifestyle. Renee welcomed us so that we would be fostered to communicate more about our concepts and predicaments and in return we were given accustomed advice and leadership on how we can provide a better experience for each role we will play in the future whether it be at home, school, workplace and in community.

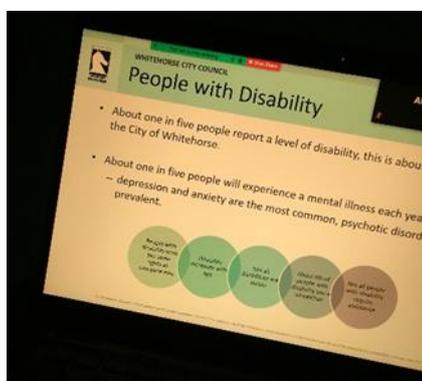
7. Disability Awareness *Written by Lavinia Tjangdjaja*

On April 6th 2021, we attended a disability awareness training with Metro Access Development Officer, Maureen D'Arcy. During the disability awareness training, we were able to appreciate the diversity of Whitehorse council such that 1 in 5 individuals within the community report having a disability. Despite the number of individuals with disabilities in our community, we were shocked to learn about the prominence of discrimination against individuals with disabilities such that they are less likely to be employed and complete secondary education. This training session helped to deepen our understanding of the life experience of a person with disabilities, and sparked our motivation to make our community more accessible for individuals with disabilities. Our discussion around the Disability Discrimination Act also allowed us to understand the laws surrounding discrimination against disabled individuals. Learning about the many ways to engage young disabled individuals for youth events helped us reassess how we approached individuals with disabilities for our youth events. As a result, for future youth events, we aim to raise awareness and make our events as accessible and welcoming as possible.

8. Council Events *Written by Christina Yu*

On April 13th the WYRC underwent Council Event online training with Hannah Milne. During this training, the WYRC learned about the various events run by the Whitehorse City Council, as well as the aims and purposes of these events. The committee also learned about the multiple steps that were involved in planning events. Council events discussed included Spring Festival and Global Fiesta. Hannah took us through an extensive training session exploring the various aspect of event management including risk assessments.

Due to the pandemic, the WYRC were ultimately unable to host in-person events in 2021. Nevertheless, the knowledge obtained from the training will be valuable for the WYRC members as they embark on future work, study or leadership activities.



Young Person of the Month *Written by lalita Aimen*

The Whitehorse City Council's Young Person of the Month award is an award that acknowledges young people from the ages of 12 to 27 for their remarkable achievements and for making exceptional contributions to the Whitehorse Community. This could be in areas of Sport, Arts & Culture, Education, Music, or any form of community involvement. An adult or peer who has witnessed their achievements and contributions to the community can nominate young people for the award.

Winners receive a feature article in Whitehorse News and likely appearances on the council's social media pages.

However, due to COVID-19 limitations, schools, community, and co-curricular activities were shut down for some of this year. This resulted in a drop in the nominations sent. We strongly believe in the award in recognizing young people for their efforts and achievements and intend to continue promoting the award on our social media channels.

Increasing the awareness of the award to send in nominations has been one of our long-running goals at the WYRC. The first was allowing young people to nominate themselves (while still listing a referee) to hopefully increase the number of nominations. Also, this year due to COVID-19 making it hard for participation in the community, we allowed personal achievements to have more importance in the reviewing process. Selecting the nominee is a great responsibility and a pleasure to reward a young person who has made an impact through their contributions and achievements. Once all nominations have been received for the month, and after some discussion and feedback, the committee votes to decide the recipient of the award. Every year many young people have made many contributions and put in lots of effort into what they do, so we would like to congratulate and acknowledge them.



Know some outstanding members of our youth community?

Nominate them for Young Person of the Month Award today!

GO TO THE CITY OF WHITEHORSE WEBSITE OR VISIT THE LINK IN THE DESCRIPTION



[HTTP://WWW.WHITEHORSE.VIC.GOV.AU/YOUNG-PERSON-AWARD](http://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/young-person-award)



Consultations – Youth Plan Consultation Ideas Development

Written by Shania Desouza

The Municipal Youth Plan consultation strategy is created by the Whitehorse Council and is designed to consult young people on how we can engage young people to find out what their issues are and how council can support them.

The WYRC met with Youth Services staff member Renee to discuss the following five questions to help council create a consultation strategy.

1. How should we consult with local young people about their issues?
2. How can we best learn about what the important issues are for young people in Whitehorse? –
3. How can we ensure that the hard-to-reach, diverse and marginalised voices are heard?
4. What types of consultations should we be doing? And how should we be doing them?
5. How do we make the process meaningful and engaging for young people?

The consultation strategy was constructed with the intention of providing the young people of Whitehorse with a space to voice their concerns and suggestions and as a result, it was of great importance to us that we meet with a diverse group of people. To achieve this, methods such as youth hubs, social media pages and in-person conversations were suggested as they were deemed the most effective way of getting responses.

To hold ourselves accountable and make sure that the plan was not just a tokenistic gesture, it was also decided that the data collected would be made public and progress made would be documented on Council social media pages. We hope that this will also encourage more young people to take part in this initiative by demonstrating to them the immense value we place on their perspectives and recommendations.

Whitehorse News Articles *Written by Shania Desouza*

Whitehorse City Council publishes the Whitehorse News each month online and delivers it to over 60 000 households in Whitehorse as well as public facilities such as libraries. In addition to local news, community information and councillor reports, there are two pages dedicated to youth information including the Young Person of the Month, Youth ConneXions activities and Creative Youth Competitions.

This year, WYRC members have had the opportunity increase awareness, especially among the older demographic, about important youth issues and experiences. Articles were published about International students and Their Struggles during COVID-19, The Importance of Staying Digitally Connected during Lockdown, Social Media and its Impact on Self Esteem and Information Regarding Getting a Job.

The importance of staying digitally connected during lockdown

Before the pandemic, parents and guardians were often worried that teenagers were spending too long glued to their mobile phones and computers. However, with the multiple lockdowns in Melbourne, it can be a breath of relief that young people are able to navigate the online world and connect with peers digitally.

Social distancing and online learning can lead to a feeling of isolation particularly to youths who are often reliant on going to school to socialise with friends. Being isolated can be difficult, leading to anxiety and a decline in mental health.

According to the 2021 Coping with COVID-19 Report (Bidout et al., 2021), 53 per cent of the 14-22 year old respondents have agreed



that social media was highly important to stay connected with family and friends. 43 per cent of the respondents agreed that social media alleviated their stress and anxiety. With the ability to navigate online, more young people are decreasing the stigma around mental health and are making use of resources online to identify their mental health concerns and reach out for support.

In these difficult periods, young people are creative through video calls, playing multiplayer video games, quizzes and creating dance videos on social media together.

These fun activities provide a welcoming distraction to the physical distancing requirements. While this is not a green light for young people to be on their phones all day, it is a good reminder for parents and guardians to be more lenient around the use of technology under these unprecedented times.

Resources for parents and guardians:

Reach out www.parents.au/reachout.com

eSafety www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/covid-19

Resources for young people:

Youth ConneXions www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/youth-connexions

headspace headspace.org.au

Lifeline www.lifeline.org.au or 13 11 14

International students and their struggles during COVID-19

Written by Joshua, a member of the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee

COVID-19 has been the talk of the year, impacting millions of lives worldwide.

A large portion of people that were most affected by COVID-19 in Australia were international students, with some key challenges being loneliness, financial issues and mental health.

Apart from being away from family and loved ones back in their home countries they, like everyone else, were isolated and had to adapt to the new situations that stripped them of their previous social life.

Many students faced financial issues and were forced to either rely on family support, their scholarship, or go bust.

A University of Technology Sydney report found that 61 per cent of students lost their jobs due to the lockdown and, out of those, only 15 per cent found new ones.

Further, more than half (54 per cent) reported that they were experiencing financial difficulties. There was a consequent rise in students living with anxiety.

If you know an international student, reach out to them and check up on them. A simple text message or call could mean the world to them.

For the full article, visit the committee website at www.whitehorsecyc.com.au

Youth ConneXions is Whitehorse Council's youth information, support and referral centre based at Box Hill Central Shopping Centre. The centre offers a comfortable and supportive environment for young people aged 12-25, to find information and seek assistance on a range of issues.

More information
www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/youth-connexions

Maintaining a steady stream of articles proved to be especially challenging throughout the year and it would be important to continue using the platform we've been afforded to improve education about pressing youth issues and find a way to do so in a more effective and efficient manner. A couple of ideas that may help achieve this include:

1. Utilising the Creative Youth Committee and WYRC social media pages to reach out to young people and invite creatively express their opinions on issues that concern them.
2. Organising monthly prompts and inviting young people to send in short responses to be featured in the Whitehorse News. This could be in the style of op-ed column

WYRC Youth Issues Survey *Written by Ian Desouza*

It is the strong belief of the 2021 Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee that engaging with the community is the best way to cause meaningful change. This year, in order to collect authentic opinions about the experience of young people in Whitehorse and the broader community, we established the Whitehorse Youth Issues Survey, a 5 minute questionnaire covering the 4 issues we focused on at the committee this year: Healthy Relationships, the LGBTQIA+ Community, Social Media & Body Image and International Students. Concerning Healthy Relationships, our aim was to understand the relationships and associated problems that existed within the community. We also wanted to understand the experience of LGBTQIA+ and International Students, how comfortable they felt within the community and the challenges they faced because of being different and the CoVID-19 pandemic. Finally, our focus on Social Media & Body Image arose out of a recognition that young people are often dismissed in their issues with body image and that it is important to understand this matter in order to create a healthier and happier community.

The survey is currently ongoing and as of the time this report is being written, it is in the process of being released to the public. We hope to collect as much data as possible from this survey to better help us understand the variety of problems faced by members of the Whitehorse youth committee and the issues most important to them. To increase interest and participation in the survey, we have allocated \$500 of the budget toward gift cards that will be randomly given to ten participants which we believe will increase participation in the survey. Currently, we would like for the survey to continue to accept responses throughout 2022 and hopefully in successive years, the survey acting as a tool to engage the community and the data as a guide for the areas of focus of future committees.



NewKind Conference *Written by Michelle Tan*

On 24th to 26th November 2021, a committee member from WYRC attended in the Newkind Social Justice Conference. Changemakers, thought-leaders, community representatives, academics, activists, students, and social entrepreneurs convened to explore, discuss, and reflect how we can promote, empower, and create positive, impactful social change.



The key theme in Newkind was intersectionality. Topics discussed ranged from gender justice, racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice, intersectional feminism, and socio-economic justice. This united and cohesive approach allowed delegates to form a wider understanding of issues across disciplines and sectors.

After reporting a summary back to the committee, WYRC would like to seek greater engagement with causes that will enable and support youths to live to their full potential, such as:

- The transfer of inter-generational cultures (especially from CALD communities) to preserve a multicultural City of Whitehorse
- Breaking unconscious bias and pre-conceived notion of gender and race
- Educating on the importance of intersectionality. This can create a positive influence on the flexibility and choice of their future studies and/or career pathway
- Addressing mental health issues
- Supporting climate change action

The Newkind Conference shed deep insights into the struggles that others in society face, and raises new perspectives on how to empower and address issues that have we have been facing and will be facing in the future.



Environmental Sustainability Youth Action Group Concept

Written by Michelle Tan

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change announced “Code red for humanity” in the sixth report. In the same year, COP26 urged countries to and businesses to limit global warming. Climate change is undeniable. Environmental damages are already occurring with increased frequency, with Australia experiencing the unforgettable bushfires in 2020.

More than ever, action should be taken to prevent the threat and effects of climate change. As global citizens and changemakers, the WYRC is proposing to form an Environmental Sustainability Youth Action group. Collaboration and guidance from the Whitehorse Sustainability team would be beneficial. This establishment of this group would encourage youths to develop their understanding on local and global issues, communication and public speaking skills, leadership skills, greater knowledge on council operations, and create an environment to foster their passion to tackle climate change.

Activities may include:

- Creating content for educating public on climate change
- Having climate change conversations with peers and public on climate change
- Group activities such as litter picking walks and habitat restoration
- Educational workshops for the youth community
- Group discussions

Currently, the Glen Eira City Council have established a Youth Climate and Sustainability Action Group which demonstrates the opportunity for Whitehorse City Council to contribute to the sustainability space for youths. Action on climate change cannot wait.



Reach the Peak – WYRC Annual Youth Summit *Written by Jessica Chung*

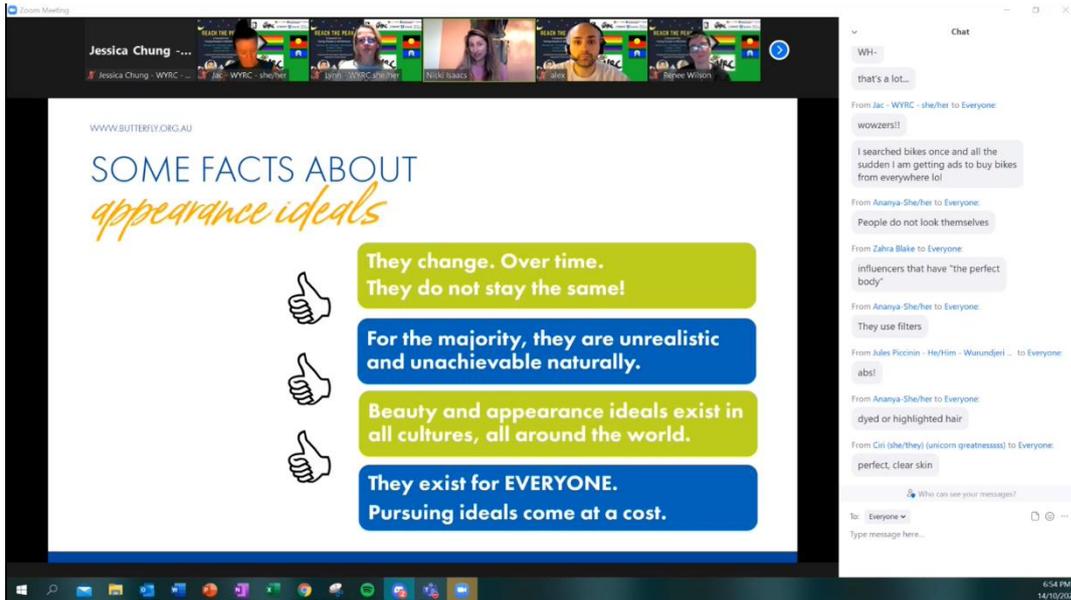
In light of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns, our initially planned 2021 in-person annual summit event was switched to an online forum, similar to the virtual forum we held in 2020. This year, our summit was titled 'Reach the Peak', and it aimed at providing young people in Whitehorse aged 12 - 25 the opportunity to participate in a series of interactive and engaging workshops, which shed light upon important issues that many young members of our community may be struggling with. Rather than holding the forum on a single day as per tradition, we decided to break up the summit into five workshops, starting from Monday the 4th of October, and spanning across two weeks. By breaking up the summit into multiple short workshops, we were hoping to render the content more accessible to those who may not have been available for one particular day, and to avoid the eyestrain and daylong physical inactivity that may have occurred had the summit lasted for an entire day.

REACH THE PEAK
A Summit For
Young People In Whitehorse
Monday 4th - Thursday 14th October
6.30pm-7.30pm
Bookings Essential!
A Series Of Free Online Workshops On
Important Youth Issues
Ages 13-17
Register at:
<https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/reach-peak-summit>

The themes for this year's summit were Health and Wellbeing, Diversity and Inclusion, and the issues we focused on included education, international students, youth activism, relationships and body image. In our first workshop, Jeffery Lai, Founder and Managing Director of Equal Ed, spoke to us about how to identify ambitions, set meaningful goals and reach our potentials. Our second workshop welcomed Belle Lim, National President at the Council of International Students Australia, who gave us an in-depth understanding of the experiences and issues that international students face, and how to support these peers of ours. Nevo Zisin, our third workshop's speaker, taught us about how we can become involved in activism, exploring topics such as empowerment, imposter syndrome, self-confidence, self-care and community care. In our fourth workshop, Lucille Hart, Learning Experience Coordinator at Relationships Australia Victoria, delved into the important topics of gender equality, respectful relationships, and how to build resilience and self-care.

For our fifth and final workshop, Nicki Isaacs from The Butterfly Foundation presented about the role that social media can play on our sense of self-esteem and body confidence, whilst teaching us about how to have a safer and more positive online experience.

Thanks to our amazing guest speakers, we as a committee, alongside the youth who participated in the workshops, were able to gain incredible insight into these important issues. Following the summit, we became better equipped, both as individuals and as a community, in understanding certain issues that affect our youth, and how we may be able to best support our community and ourselves. This summit event also provided our committee with a valuable opportunity to develop our organisational, leadership and communication skills, through the initiative required to organise the logistics of the event, contact our guest speakers, manage the budget and publicise the event. Overall, the 2021 'Reach the Peak' summit was a wonderful experience for WYRC and the Whitehorse community, one where we were all able to learn and develop ourselves tremendously.



Social Media and Body Image Report *Written by Elvis Yang*

Body image is defined as a feeling state created by numerous factors. It can also influence how we engage with the world. In this year, "Social Media and Body Image" was identified as one of the important youth issues we focus on. Nowadays, many young people are dissatisfied with their bodies, feel a loss of self-esteem and this can lead to serious health concerns for teens such as:

- **Bulimia Nervosa:** Individuals with this disorder are also very dissatisfied with their bodies and have extreme concern with body weight and shape.
- **Depression:** In many instances, individuals with depression often have a distorted view of themselves and believe they are less attractive than they really are.
- **Body Dysmorphic Disorder:** This is a disorder of "imagined ugliness." What individuals with this disorder see in the mirror is a grossly distorted view of what they actually look like. Often, these individuals will spend hours examining,

attempting to conceal, or obsessing over their perceived flaws. Some people spend thousands of dollars on plastic surgery to improve their bodies.

Social media however may also have influences on youth people from the following aspects such as:

- Media exposure contributes to body dissatisfaction and Body Dysmorphic Disorder. Social media is unfortunately shaping our concept of beauty.
- People always compare them with images displayed in the media, which will let them feel more depression on their bodies.

These issues have been further discussed in our Summit Youth Forum and we provided a workshop delivered by Nicki from The Butterfly Foundation to educate youth people regarding these issues. The aim of this workshop is to explore the role that social media plays on body confidence and self-esteem. It aims to strengthen young people's media literacy and empower young people, though the way they use and view social media platforms and offering a safer, more positive online experience.

Apart from this forum, the WYRC 2021 had planned to consult with young people and organizations to create a report about the issues with body images and deliver a presentation to Council.



This year is still a tough year. With intermittent lockdown, the WYRC 2021 team have arranged a series of trainings and presentations successfully. However, there are some works still not fully finished, especially for the body image issue. So, we decide to handling over our work to date to the WYRC 2022 to continue and complete. Wish all the best to them.

Conclusion *Written by Daniel Ware*

Even though 2021 was a year again impacted by COVID-19, lockdowns and many disruptions across society - both locally and globally - the Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee 2021 was able to continue serving its role in the community. It certainly has not been an easy year, with the Committee meeting both virtually and physically at different times throughout the year. The ability of the Committee and its members to endure and still contribute despite this has been incredible.

Despite these challenges, the WYRC has been able to maintain its presence as an important body for our local young people, receiving important training, voting on the Whitehorse Young Person of the Month award, and running a successful Reach the Peak Summit even after transitioning to a virtual event on relatively short notice.

The Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee of 2021 would like to thank Jac, Lynn and Zoe for their contributions and support throughout the year. Without them, the WYRC would not be what it is.

We would also like to thank the Council for its continued support of the WYRC and its work and look forward to seeing what the WYRC can do in 2022.

